The Herald-Palladium

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Michigan Press Association's NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR Class C

Forum addresses concerns over high water

Local, A3

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN GIRLS BEAT RIVER VALLEY

Sports, B1

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020

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The second chance kid

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Jason Shi, left, from St. Joseph Upton Middle School, fist bumps Cole Baldwin, from Niles Ring Lardner Middle School, as the two become the remaining spellers during the 2020 Cloverleaf Spelling Competition. Shi would go on to win by correctly spelling G-R-U-N-G-E on Thursday morning at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center.

SJ's Jason Shi wins Cloverleaf crown after catching a break

By RALPH HEIBUTZKI
HP Correspondent

Brylee Crass, far left, from Lakeshore Hollywood Elementary, joins students as they compete during the 2020 Cloverleaf Spelling Bee on Thursday.

BENTON TOWNSHIP — For one heart-stopping second, Jason Shi thought his chances of winning the Cloverleaf Spelling Competition had gone up in smoke.

That moment came after he spelled "profundity" – a noun that means, "great knowledge or insight" – as "profoundity" during Thursday's contest at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center.

"For me, top 10 was already pretty good, so third place was really good so I wasn't depressed," said Jason, a sixth-grader at St. Joseph Upton Middle School, about his initial reaction.

But judges called Jason back onstage after reviewing an audiotape of the competition and gave him a different word to spell – "requisition," which is a noun meaning, "written request for something."

That ruling, in turn, paved the way for Jason's victory, which came on "grunge," a musical genre incorporating elements of punk rock and heavy metal.

Jason's victory followed a brief showdown with Cole Baldwin, of Edwardsburg, in which both spelled their designated word correctly.

But Cole, a home-schooled student from Ring Lardner Middle School, tripped up on "faddish," an adjective meaning, "intensely fashionable for a short period of time." He spelled it as "fadish."

Jason then spelled that word correctly, then "grunge," to emerge around 11 a.m. Thursday as this year's grand champion.

He will now represent Southwest Michigan in the 93rd Scripps National Spelling Bee, to be held May 24-29 in the Washington, D.C. area.

A second shot

Judges Vivian Achterberg, Christina Martin and Andy Steinke wound up calling Jason back onstage for the second time, based on how Jason had said "profundity," pronouncer Dawn Howley explained.

"When he threw that 'ou' in his spelling, the judges really wanted to take a listen (to the tape). The first couple of times, he was saying it correctly, but on his last pronunciation, he pronounced it differently," she said.

The judges determined that giving Jason another word was the only way to be fair to him, or any other competitor in the same situation, Howley said.

"Thank goodness we tape record this entire contest, so we can listen to these very succinct pronunciations. And if they're saying anything differently, from what we think we're hearing, we can pick it up, and make sure it's right for the kids," she said.

One more drama

Jason's win, though, didn't come without one final dramatic moment, which came during his final word.

Jason had gotten as far as, "G-R-U-N," only to stop, and let the final letters – G-E – hang in the air, unsaid for a moment or two, until he got them out, to great applause

See **CLOVERLEAF**, page A2

BERRIEN COUNTY

Board approves hire of another prosecutor position

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — In an effort to keep up with the increased workload since the county opened a public defender's office, the Berrien County Prosecutor's Office will add an assistant prosecutor position, following action Thursday by the Berrien County Board of Commissioners.

The prosecutor's office added two assistant prosecutor positions last year, and once again needs to add staff. According to a resolution passed along to commissioners by the county's personnel and human services committee, once of the attorneys added in 2019 has helped in the unified court's Family Court and has filled in for vacations, family leaves and training.

The other has allowed Chief Assistant Prosecutor Steve Pierangeli to be relieved of a judge assignment and focus on management and training/mentoring of new attorneys, plus fill in occasionally on court cases. According to the resolution approved by the county board, an additional assistant prosecutor in the adult criminal division with allow Chief Trial Attorney Jeffrey Taylor to do the same, along with relieving the APA's of some of their workload.

Berrien County Prosecutor Michael Sepic was not at Thursday's county board meeting, but has previously said the criminal case workload has increased significantly since the Berrien County Public Defender's Office opened, and the assistant prosecutors have been meeting the increased demands by working evenings and weekend. The prosecutor's office also has experienced an increase in the Family Court workload, requiring the adult criminal court prosecutors to fill in there.

Sepic had predicted that the workload for his office would increase when the public defender's office opened because

See **BOARD**, page A8

Upton pushes water diversion to ease lake levels

Congressman, Sen. Stabenow tour local areas hit hard by high water

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Rising Lake Michigan water levels need to be addressed quickly or Southwest Michigan's multi-million dollar recreation industry is in peril, U.S. Rep. Fred Upton said Thursday as he toured marinas in St. Joseph, Benton Harbor and South Haven.

"It's all hands on deck. What can we do?" said the Republican from St. Joseph while visiting the West Basin Marina in St. Joseph. "If we can divert some of this water so it doesn't flow here, I think that's a good thing."

It's not just a local problem. He said he's talked with other elected officials in Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio who have communities on the Great Lakes facing the same problem of high water levels and erosion.

Upton said that three times since 1940, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers diverted two rivers so they no longer flowed into Lake Superior, which then flows into Lake Michigan.

He said the International Joint Commission formed by Canada and the U.S. is meeting with the Lake Superior Board of Control next month to see if anything can be done like that to reduce water levels in the Great Lakes.

"They're also looking at working with the St. Lawrence River Authority and increasing the flow that then goes through Niagara Falls," he said. "A lot of interests are competing there. They believe they can increase that flow and still have it be safe."

The high water levels and erosion are not only threatening homes, but the state's tourism and recreational boating industries.

According to statistics provided by Upton's office, recreational boating is a $617 million annual industry in his district, which consists of all of Berrien, Cass,

See **TOURS**, page A8

Louise Wrege / HP Staff

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, center, speaks at the West Basin Marina in St. Joseph on Thursday about the high water levels in Lake Michigan, which are endangering the docks and could throw a wrench into the tourism industry this summer. With him are, from left, Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad and St. Joseph Mayor Michael Garey.

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Tomorrow's Weather

High 41 Low 33

6 50645 49085 0

Roger Stone sentenced to over 3 years in prison

By ASHRAF KHALIL, MARK SHERMAN and MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Roger Stone, a longtime confidant of President Donald Trump, was sentenced to more than three years in prison Thursday for obstructing a congressional investigation in a case that has sparked fears about presidential interference in the justice system.

Soon after Judge Amy Berman Jackson pronounced sentence, Trump publicly decried Stone's conviction as unfair and prominent Republican legislators were giving tacit support for a pardon. But Trump said he wasn't ready to act just yet.

"I want the process to play out. I think that's the best thing to do because I would love to see Roger exonerated," he said. "I'm going to watch the process. I'm going to watch very closely. … At some point I'll make a determination."

The case was marked by the Justice Department's extraordinary about-face on a sentencing recommendation and a very public dispute between Trump and Attorney General William Barr, who said the president was undermining the department's historical independence and making "it impossible for me to do my job."

The president responded by asserting that he was the "chief law enforcement officer of the federal government."

Stone was convicted in November on all seven counts of an indictment that accused him of lying to Congress, tampering with a witness and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election.

He was the sixth Trump aide or adviser to be convicted on charges brought as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible Russian interference in the 2016 election.

At sentencing Thursday, Jackson grilled federal prosecutor John Crabb on the department's decision to replace a tough sentencing recommendation for Stone with a more lenient one, which had prompted the original prosecution team to quit the case. Trump had called the original recommendation of seven to nine years a "miscarriage of justice."

Jackson pointedly told Crabb that he might know less about the case than anyone in the room.

Jackson said the evidence clearly showed that Stone testified falsely to Congress and repeatedly pressured a potential witness to either back up his lie or refuse to testify.

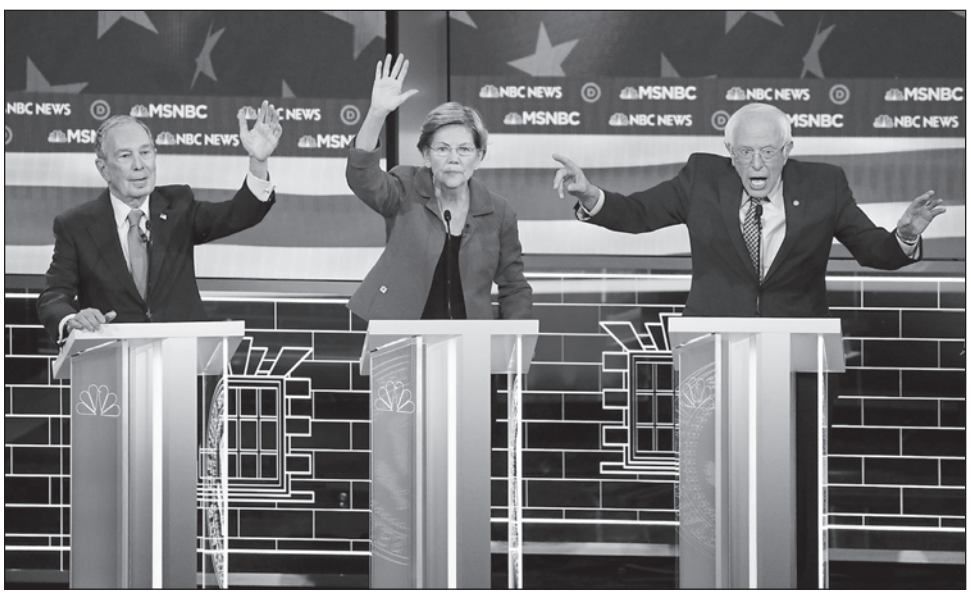
Near the end, Jackson's voice rose in anger as she said that Stone's entire defense strategy seemed to amount to "So What?" Stone did not testify and called no witnesses on his behalf.

"This is NOT campaign hijinks. This was not Roger being Roger. You lied to Congress," she told Stone. "The dismay and disgust … at the defendant's actions in our polarized climate should transcend (political) parties."

She sentenced Stone to 40 months in prison, plus two years' probation and a $20,000 fine.

Wounded but defiant, Bloomberg promises to keep fighting

By STEVE PEOPLES and LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press



John Locher / AP

From left, Democratic presidential candidates, former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., participate in a Democratic presidential primary debate on Wednesday in Las Vegas, hosted by NBC News and MSNBC.

SALT LAKE CITY — His aura suddenly shattered, a defiant Michael Bloomberg sent a pointed message Thursday to a political world grappling with his underwhelming presidential debate debut: He's not going away.

The New York ultra-billionaire lashed out at leading Democratic rival Bernie Sanders and President Donald Trump, addressing voters face to face in the Super Tuesday state of Utah. That was just hours after struggling to answer dangerous yet predictable questions about his record on race, gender and wealth during a nationally televised beatdown that rattled would-be supporters and thrilled critics in both parties.

Bloomberg didn't go easy in his own review of the Las Vegas debate: "How was your night last night? Look, the real winner in the debate last night was Donald Trump," he told a crowd of several hundred in Utah's largest city.

But then he added: "He thinks I'm going to go away. Wrong, Donald."

Though never onstage with his rivals before Wednesday night, the former New York mayor has built support in national polls though huge expenditures on polished television ads. He released a campaign finance report Thursday that reminded rivals in both parties of his indisputable advantage in the 2020 contest: Money.

Specifically, the man worth an estimated $60 billion reported spending $409 million through the first nine weeks of his presidential campaign, including $220 million last month alone.

Still, there were signs that his debate performance shook the confidence of would-be supporters who, just 24 hours earlier, believed Bloomberg might be the ideal candidate for the Democratic Party's anxious establishment to rally behind. Instead, a new reality began to settle in, at least among some prominent donors and political operatives, who acknowledged a stark divide between the strength of Bloomberg-the-brand and Bloomberg-the-candidate.

"I've never seen a billionaire get disemboweled before, but good God, that was bad," said Boyd Brown, a South Carolina-based Democratic strategist who was considering backing Bloomberg earlier in the week. "I don't see how he bounces back from that."

Some prominent donors weren't impressed either.

Rufus Gifford, a leading fundraiser for both of Barack Obama's presidential campaigns, said, "As a Biden supporter but also someone who respects Mayor Bloomberg, he did nothing last night that encouraged me to look in a different direction."

Trump and his allies were downright giddy.

Former Trump senior adviser Steve Bannon said he's not dismissing Bloomberg after one debate given his extraordinary political assets – organization, a sophisticated data operation and an unlimited bank account – yet the "myth of Bloomberg" has been replaced by a new reality.

The leading Republican strategist said it was "malpractice by his senior advisers" to put Bloomberg onstage before the March 3 Super Tuesday primaries since Bloomberg won't be on the ballot until then.

Those senior advisers declined to respond to requests for comment, though immediately after the debate, campaign manager Kevin Sheekey noted that Bloomberg hadn't debated in more than a decade.

"He was just warming up," Sheekey said.

Meanwhile, Bloomberg's Democratic rivals were seeking to capitalize on his struggles.

During an appearance outside Las Vegas, Warren said, "Last night was a lot of fun," because Bloomberg was held accountable.

"I have really had it with billionaires, regardless of party, who think that the rules don't apply to them," she said.

LOTTERIES

Thursday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
AH-AS-6C-4D-9S
Midday Daily 3
7-7-6
Midday Daily 4
9-1-5-2
Daily 3
6-9-6
Daily 4
0-8-8-6
Fantasy 5
13-24-26-32-38
Keno
03-05-09-14-16-17-19-27-29-31-36-42-44-55-58-60-63-65-70-71-72-80
Mega Millions jackpot
$50 million
Powerball jackpot
$60 million

Wednesday drawings

Michigan
Powerball
10-12-15-19-56, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 2
Indiana
Cash 5
14-26-27-33-44
Cash4Life
04-11-13-14-54, Cash Ball: 3
Lotto Plus
07-09-27-29-35-37
Quick Draw Midday
02-03-04-10-11-27-39-42-43-44-45-47-52-53-59-62-66-69-73-77, BE: 52
Daily Three-Midday
1-1-2, SB: 5
Daily Three-Evening
4-4-1, SB: 1
Daily Four-Midday
2-1-0-5, SB: 5
Daily Four-Evening
0-2-4-4, SB: 1
Quick Draw Evening
01-07-08-10-11-12-16-20-22-25-28-30-42-52-64-70-72-75-76-78, BE: 64
Hoosier Lotto
04-13-22-33-35-46
Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
11-12-28-40-42
Pick Three-Midday
1-7-9, Fireball: 8
Pick Three-Evening
4-3-6, Fireball: 5
Pick Four-Midday
4-9-0-5, Fireball: 8
Pick Four-Evening
8-6-6-6, Fireball: 3
Lucky Day Lotto
10-14-30-37-38

– The Associated Press

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CLOVERLEAF

From page A1

from the Mendel crowd.

Asked what prompted him to hold back, Jason said, "I was debating between G-R-U-N-D-G-E and G-R-U-N-G-E."

That move came down to keeping cool and taking his time, he added.

"There's no use knowing the word and just messing up, if you went too fast," he said.

Jason, 12, is a sixth-grader at Upton Middle School. He's the son of Bo Shi and Wenjie Xu, of St. Joseph. He plays chess, piano and violin, and also enjoys reading and swimming.

Thursday's victory came during Jason's second competition, and wound up being a post-birthday present of sorts, because his birthday is Feb. 11, he said.

Secrets of winning

Asked for the secret of winning, Jason responded: "If you read a lot of books, then you'll get a lot of the words on the list. The rest is just basically studying. Also, I wouldn't waste time studying the words you already know."

Bo Shi seconded his son's strategic thinking. "This is something that he's really passionate about. He reads a lot, for sure. As long as he feels like doing it, I certainly encourage him."

The pause that Jason took during his final word exemplifies what she's seen all along from him, Upton spelling coach Cathy Gressley said after the competition.

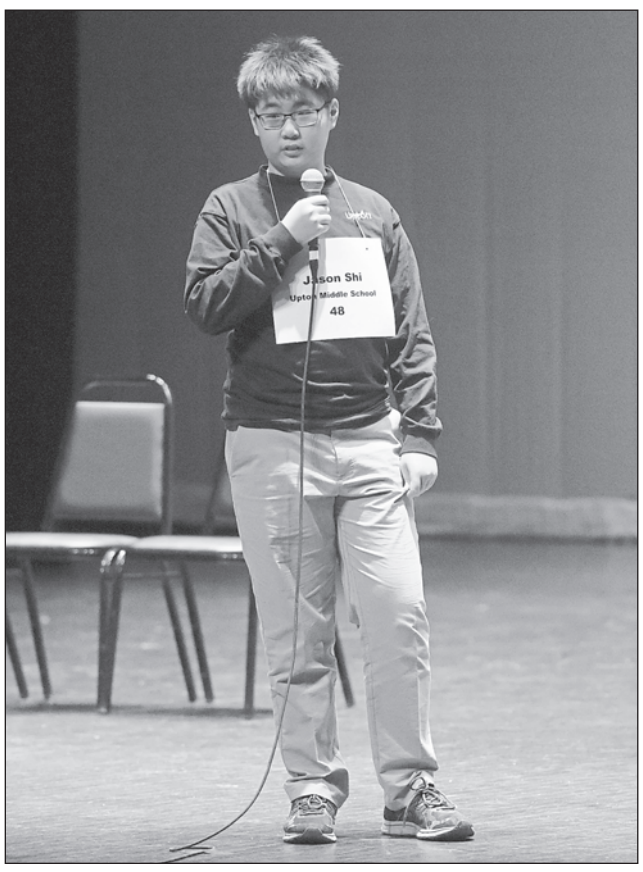
"He's a very coachable student and very easy to work with – he does not display nervousness. I've never seen him get rattled. But he's got a great foundation, and reading does wonders to help that," she said.

Adding to Gressley's satisfaction, one other Upton student, Pihu Sahai, also ended up placing fifth.

"I am super excited for his (Jason's) family, and recognition of Upton Middle School. This is the first time, in a long time, that Upton Middle School's been represented with the winner," she said.

The runner-up

Cole accepted his second-place status philosophically. Thursday marked his final appearance in the Cloverleaf, which is open to K-8 students.



Don Campbell / HP staff

Jason Shi wins the 2020 Cloverleaf Spelling Bee Thursday morning with the correct spelling of the final word.

"I didn't know it ('faddish'), so I knew I had to guess. I was debating between a T, and a D – I had no idea it was going to be two D's," Cole said. "I was pretty happy with whatever I got, and I'm happy for second."

Cole, 13, is the son of Bret and Amy Baldwin. He enjoys skateboarding and playing basketball.

He's home-schooled, but "the Niles home-school partnership allows me to compete at the spelling bee," he said.

Cole figures he's done roughly seven or eight competitions, including four straight regional contests. His better showings have included fourth- and fifth-place finishes, he said.

"It was stressful sometimes, but it was fun. It helped me study for stuff, and it taught me how to learn," Cole said.

No extra time

Forty-four students represented 16 Berrien and Van Buren County schools in this year's competition, according to the Cloverleaf's coordinator, Tonya Snyder, student activities coordinator for Berrien RESA.

"We all know that it's really difficult to spell correctly, regardless of whether you have a computer in front of you or not, but spelling is a talent that should be celebrated," she said, before announcing the top finishers and prizes.

Students got one practice round, to get the jitters out of their system, before plunging into the heat of competition – which required them to keep spelling their assigned words correctly to maintain their place on the Mendel stage.

This year's contest seemed to move faster than usual, with roughly half those competing eliminated by the third round, Snyder noted.

"This year, the list that kids were given to study was much bigger. It was just a change on the national level, of more words to study, and become familiar with. Because of that, things moved faster on our end," Snyder said. "There was no extra time."

That issue aside, one aspect of the competition doesn't change, Snyder noted.

"Sitting in the audience, there a couple of words said, and I'm just (thinking), 'Is it the T, is it the D? Is it the B, is it the V?' Those can trip you up so fast," she said.

The Herald-Palladium, Cook Nuclear Plant/AEP, Berrien Regional Education Service Agency and Lake Michigan College sponsored this year's event.

Co-sponsors included the Encyclopedia Britannica, Hexco Academic, the Honor Credit Union, Merriam-Webster, Pizza Hut of Michigan, and the Sugarman family.

Cloverleaf top ten finishers (and prizes)

First/Grand Champion: Jason Shi: $1,925 entry fee to National Spelling Bee (from the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee, Herald-Palladium); $1,605 room/tax towards the trip (from the Cloverleaf and Cook Nuclear Plant): $1,000 cash (from Cook Nuclear Plant); savings bond (Samuel L. Sugarman); unabridged online Merriam Webster's Dictionary; one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online; and three-month eMentor subscription (Hexco Academic).

Second: Cole Baldwin: Ring Lardner Middle School/home-schooled: $200 cash (from the Cloverleaf), Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition (from Merriam-Webster).

Third: Libby Lamport, New Buffalo Middle School, $100 cash (from the Cloverleaf), three-month eMentor subscription (Hexco Academic).

Fourth: Ena Amoakohene, Berrien Springs Middle School, $80 cash (from the Cloverleaf), three-month eMentor subscription (Hexco Academic).

Fifth: Pihu Sahai, SJ Upton Middle School, $70 cash (from the Cloverleaf).

Sixth: Gabrielle Gittens, Berrien Springs Middle School, gift certificate (Michigan Pizza Hut).

Seventh: Adison Hildebrand, Trinity Lutheran School, Berrien Springs, gift certificate (Michigan Pizza Hut).

Eighth: Joel Volz, Lawton Middle School, gift certificate (Michigan Pizza Hut).

Ninth: Gavin Brocato, SJ Lincoln Elementary School, gift certificate (Michigan Pizza Hut).

10th: Aileen Mongkau, Berrien Springs Middle School, gift certificate (Michigan Pizza Hut).

All sixth- through 15th-place finishers received the gift certificate. Every participating student also received gift bags from the contest sponsors.

hp LOCAL & STATE

‘The sponge is full’

Forum addresses concerns over high water and effects that extend inland

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Jerrod Sanders can’t predict the weather, but he can tell that Michigan’s lake levels are still unusually high for this time of year.

“The conditions look similar to last year,” he said during a Michigan’s Great Southwest Sustainable Business Forum, held in Benton Township on Thursday. “It looks like we are going to set record highs this year.”

According to recent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates, water levels are expected to increase by a foot or more in 2020.

Sanders, an assistant director for the Water Resources Division at the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), was among several panelists who addressed how water levels are affecting homeowners, businesses and municipalities during the Thursday forum.

Sanders was the first speaker, giving attendees a status update on the Great Lakes water levels and what EGLE is doing about it.

He explained the excess amount of precipitation, runoff and wind that has continuously pushed water inland

See **FORUM**, page A4

Tony Wittkowski / HP staff

Jerrod Sanders, assistant director of the Water Resources Division at Michigan’s Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, discusses water levels Thursday during a sustainable business forum in Benton Township.

SOUTH HAVEN

Photo provided / Tom Renner

Water nearly covers South Haven’s bascule bridge’s red warning signs earlier this month. City leaders plan to raise the bridge’s motor cabinets by 1 to 2 feet this spring to ensure safe operation of hydraulic components that raise and lower the bridge’s roadway decks.

A precarious position

City seeks to elevate motors on Dyckman Ave. bridge to keep it working

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — Up or down?

That’s the question on the minds of many South Haven area residents as water levels continue to rise along Lake Michigan and the Black River, meaning its conceivable the Dyckman Avenue drawbridge could be locked in the up or down position.

Two motors located below the bridge operate its hydraulic system, which raises and lowers the bridge decks. But as the water level creeps higher on the river, the motors are at risk of being rendered inoperable.

If that occurs, city officials would be faced with deciding whether to leave the bridge in an up or down position for the boating season. Up means boats could pass through, but motorists would have to find alternative routes to come or go from the north side. A down position would allow motorists to cross the bridge, but trap an estimated 900 boats north of the bridge from reaching Lake Michigan.

City officials don’t want to be put in the position of choosing. Instead they are planning to shell out at least $50,000 this spring to raise the bridge’s motors.

“The bridge is going to work,” said Department of Public Works Director Bill Hunter. “I’m working with a mechanical contractor and we’re getting a price to raise the motors.”

The DPW has budgeted $50,000 so far for the project, but the cost could be higher.

“We’re still working on the details,” Hunter said.

Once the details have been hammered out, Hunter estimates the motors will be elevated sometime in April, but cautioned it might occur in May, depending on the availability of mechanical and electrical contractors to do the work.

Luckily, it won’t take long to raise the motors, according to Hunter.

“It (the bridge) will probably be out of service, but not a long time period. I don’t think it will take more than a few days,” he said.

Tiger Dams

Raising the drawbridge motors isn’t the only expense the city is facing this year due to erosion and flooding along the lakeshore and Black River.

Earlier this week, city council members voted to shell out $30,000 to purchase a “Tiger Dam” system to control flooding occurring at Ellen Avery Park. The park and its parking lot are located at the southern end of North Shore Drive.

The Tiger Dam system consists of long, flexible plastic tubes that can be joined end to end and filled with water. Once filled, the tubes form a barrier to protect property and buildings before flooding takes place.

Later this year, after the summer season ends, the city plans to install a Tiger Dam system along South Beach to protect the beach, parking lot, and especially the water plant from flooding.

“The one at the beach will be put up late September and then stay up during the winter months,” Hunter said. “That’s when we’ll have most of our high winds.”

Water plant woes

One of the biggest high water-related costs the city faces will be at the wastewater treatment plant.

“The treatment plant is the big one. That’s high priority,” Hunter said.

The flow has increased 300,000 gallons per day, due to flooding and high water levels. When water enters the plant to be treated it flows through treatment stages by gravitational force. But the higher water flow is making it more difficult to remove treated water from the plant and into the Black River.

Hunter estimates it would cost $1 million to change the way water flows through the treatment stages of the plant and into the river. Right now, that money isn’t budgeted, but the problem needs to be addressed, he said.

“The drawback is if you don’t do it you’re going to have sanitary sewer overflows,” he said. “This is a system-wide problem.”

City officials hope that some financial help for high water-related infrastructure upgrades can come from the state or federal government.

Officials have estimated if could cost the city between $10-$19 million to address the flooding and erosion impacting roadways, marinas, the water and wastewater treatment plants, bluffs and beaches.

LMC to present choral concert in conjunction with OutCenter

By HP STAFF

BENTON TOWNSHIP — The Lake Michigan College Visual and Performing Arts Department, in conjunction with LMC student life and the OutCenter of Southwest Michigan, will present a choral concert this weekend featuring music by LGBT composers and allies.

The concert, “Songs for a Better World,” will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday in the newly renovated Hanson Theatre in The Mendel Center, 1100 Yore Ave., Benton Harbor.

The LMC Concert Choir, its chamber ensemble, Soundwaves, and the a cappella group, Harbor Lights, all under the direction of LMC Music Director and Visual and Performing Arts Chair Kristopher Zook, will perform during the event.

Among the highlights of the concert program are “How to Sing Like a Planet” by Elizabeth Alexander; “This We Know” by Ron Jeffries; “Some Type of Love” by Charlie Puth; and Zook’s arrangement of “Love is Love is Love is Love.” The vast repertoire also includes pieces by Andre J. Thomas, David L. Bruner, Moses Hogan, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Paul Simon, and more.

The LMC Concert Choir is a mixed voice choral ensemble that features LMC students and community members from Berrien County and beyond. LMC’s Soundwaves is an audition-based group of student vocalists who have a passion for high-quality, advanced choral repertoire. Harbor Lights, LMC’s newest ensemble, is an a cappella group.

Admission is free and the concert is open to the public. A $5 suggested donation will be collected to benefit the OutCenter of Southwest Michigan.

The concert will serve as a kickoff for a week of collaborative events on the Benton Harbor campus centered around LGBTQ+ education and support.

LMC Student Life, in conjunction with the OutCenter, will be hosting an LBGTQ+ art exhibition, beginning Monday in the Hawk’s Nest on the Benton Harbor campus. Students can also take a tour of the OutCenter on Feb. 24, and the documentary film “State of Pride” will be shown at noon Tuesday in the Hawk’s Nest followed by a discussion.

For more information, call 927-8876, or visit www.lakemichigancollege.edu/arts, or www.lakemichigancollege.edu/studentlife.

BERRIEN COUNTY

5 honored for lifesaving efforts

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County Sheriff Paul Bailey has presented awards to four sheriff’s deputies and a jail nurse who he said took outstanding actions to save the lives of others.

The five honored at Thursday’s meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners were: Deputies Jason Uhrik, Amanda Scurek, Matthew Taylor and David Lee, and jail nurse Tamara Scheppleman. Bailey said it’s the second time Lee has been involved in a lifesaving incident.

Chief Deputy Robert Boyce presented a Meritorious Service Award to Uhrik, and the four others received lifesaving awards.

Boyce said Uhrik was first on the scene Nov. 11, 2019, after a vehicle was reported to be submerged in a pond about 30 feet off I-94 in Chikaming Township. When Uhrik arrived, he could not tell whether there was anyone still in the vehicle.

“You swam to the submerged vehicle, risking your own life and well-being in 28-degree weather to ensure that nobody was in the vehicle that needed rescuing,” Boyce read from the statement on the award. He added, “Nobody was in

See **AWARDS**, page A4

BERRIEN COUNTY

Board approves list of grant requests

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The Berrien County Board of Commissioners on Thursday approved a long list of grants and grant proposals, including a $109,626 Berrien County Veterans Services grant.

According to a resolution passed along to the board by the Berrien County Personnel and Human Services Committee, the grant from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency will be used for veterans services that are over and above that normally budgeted for the county’s Veterans Services Office.

The biggest items on the list of anticipated expenditures include funding a 30-hour-a-week veterans assistant; several newspaper and radio ads promoting available veterans services; and special projects such as the Dave Ramsey program and Berrien County Youth Fair.

The board approved the following agreements for services to be paid for by the 2020 Michigan Department of Corrections grant to Berrien totaling $199,448:

- The Michiana Drug Testing Center Inc. to provide substance abuse testing to defendants.
- The Men In Crisis program in coordination with the Berrien County Trial Court and Community Corrections for domestic violence programming.
- The Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program for cognitive programming and substance abuse testing services to eligible defendants.
- The Berrien County Mental Health Authority for behavioral health treatment and assessments to eligible defendants.

Also approved Thursday

See **GRANT**, page A4

Body found at Tiscornia may be that of missing Chicago woman

By HP STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — The body of a woman was found floating in Lake Michigan off of Tiscornia Beach at about 6 p.m. Wednesday evening, police said.

St. Joseph Public Safety Department Director Steve Neubecker reported in a news release that the woman was an asian female about 55-years-old wearing a dark green jacket and sweatpants.

He said she matches the description of a missing woman out of Chicago. Police have not said when the woman first went missing.

An autopsy was conducted at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine on Thursday. Positive identification of the body will be completed forensically through dental records and DNA at a later date.

Neubecker said police will release her name once a positive identification is made.

He said there was no trauma to the body.

Assisting the St. Joseph Public Safety Department were the Berrien County Sheriff Department, Medic 1, Benton Township Police Department and the Chicago Police Department.

IN BRIEF

Dog shot, killed Wednesday afternoon

BENTON TOWNSHIP — A dog was shot, but no people were injured Wednesday afternoon during an exchange of gunfire at an apartment complex in Benton Township, police say.

Benton Township Police Chief Brian Smit reported in a news release that police were dispatched at about 3 p.m. Wednesday to the Blossom Acres Apartment Complex on the report of shots fired.

Police discovered that a dog had been shot, and a confrontation after the shooting led to more shots being fired. Smit said that the two men involved in the confrontation fled the scene on foot before officers arrived.

Berrien County Animal Control was called to the scene to attend to the dog, which later died from the gun shot.

The incident is still under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call the Benton Township Police Department at 925-1135 or Crime Stoppers at 547-288-STOP.

Laws require warning labels on Michigan marijuana products

LANSING (AP) — Marijuana sold in Michigan shops will have to have labels warning pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers about the health risks for their fetuses and infants under newly enacted laws.

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist signed the two bills Wednesday because Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was out of the state.

The labels must be placed on legal recreational and medical marijuana products and warn that use by pregnant or breastfeeding women may result in fetal injury, preterm birth, low birth weight or development problems for children.

The laws also require that an informational pamphlet be made available at every point of sale. It must include safety information related to use by minors and include the poison control hotline number – in case children accidentally eat candy or brownies that contain marijuana.

One of the bill sponsors, Republican Rep. Thomas Albert of Lowell, said the industry has changed people's perceptions of the drug.

"Many people believe it's perfectly safe, and that's just not true," he said. "These labels will better inform parents of risks they may not have previously considered and serve as an added safety measure to protect vulnerable children."

Albert cited studies showing that too many women continue to use marijuana while pregnant.

FORUM

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has caused more problems than just beach erosion.

Mass instances of flooding has led to homeowners trying out-of-the-box and temporary fixes, Sanders said.

As a result, the number of permit applications that have been sent to the state has increased as steadily as the lake levels themselves.

In 2017, the state issued 636 permits. The number hit a new high in 2018 with 825 permits. Within the first quarter of 2020, the state has already issued 452 permits.

"I don't think we're going to have solutions for everything," Sanders said. "One of the biggest obstacles is explaining the scope of this."

Using a Powerpoint presentation, Sanders revealed line graphs showing the up-and-down trend of the water levels that have been documented in Michigan over the years.

With the water levels peaking in the 1950s, 1980s and 2010s, Sanders also acknowledged the past few years have been unprecedented.

"2017, 2018 and 2019 are in the 80th percentile (when it comes to water levels)," Sanders said. "The soil has become saturated and the groundwater tables are rising. In other words, the sponge is full."

Suzannah Deneau, a project engineer for Wightman, gave attendees a rundown on some of the projects the company has worked on as a result of the increased water.

Deneau also talked about what projects can be fast-tracked for approval with the state. Despite all the problems, Deneau said there is at least one silver lining here in Southwest Michigan.

"Good news is dredging is not a problem," Deneau said to laughter.

Peter Colovos, a principal at Prairie Real Estate Group, rounded out the forum by showing several photos of flooding in downtown Benton Harbor.

The photos were taken as far back as 2014, and as recently as December 2019.

At one point when viewing an image of a flooded street along 376 Main Street, Colovos quipped that there were fish living on the street because there is a direct pipeline to Paw Paw River.

"We can't take on anymore stormwater," Colovos said. "Our infrastructure needs to be talked about. What do we do when we can't pass through Main Street?"

During a Q&A session, Sanders said he would not venture a guess when asked when lake levels might return to normal.

"We have no indication when the trend is going to change," Sanders said. "You can predict as far out as you can, but it is all weather-dependent. There isn't any certainty that water levels will go down next year or the year after that."

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AWARDS

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the vehicle, but if someone was and you'd waited for others to arrive it could have become a recovery."

Boyce said police officers take an oath to risk their own lives and well-being in order to serve and protect others, and Uhrik honored that oath.

Capt. Brian Wilke handed lifesaving awards to three jail deputies and the nurse. On Nov. 23, 2019, Scurek found an inmate hanging from a bed sheet in his cell at the Berrien County jail. She immediately called for help and, along with Taylor, Lee and Scheppleman, freed the man and performed CPR and rescue breathing until an ambulance arrived. The man began to breathe and was taken to Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph, and made a full recovery, Wilke said.

Bailey said the hanging was determined to be a suicide attempt.

"The men and woman of this department do an outstanding job every day, but sometimes they do extraordinary. They see things normal people don't see every day," Bailey said.

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GRANT

From page A3

was acceptance of a grant from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs in the amount of $47,758 for education, communication and outreach regarding the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act now to Sept. 15. This is the continuation of a prevention campaign started in 2019, with the key target audiences being youth and pregnant women.

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Wendzel's self-distribution bill passes state House

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

LANSING — State Rep. Pauline Wendzel's self-distribution package passed with overwhelming support Thursday in the Michigan House of Representatives.

The main bill in the package, House Bill 5343, allows microbreweries to self-distribute up to 2,000 barrels of beer to a retailer or wholesaler on an annual basis. Any on-premises sales from a microbrewer's taproom would not be included when calculating the 2,000 barrel limit.

"Craft brewing is a billion-dollar industry in Michigan providing nearly 10,000 jobs in communities throughout our state," Wendzel said in a released statement. "Our state sits near the top of every list as it relates to brewing, and I hope that this package will help create an even better environment that allows these small businesses to grow and thrive."

WENDZEL

Wendzel, R-Watervliet, first unveiled the legislation at the Michigan Brewer's Guild Winter Conference and Trade Show in January.

The legislation has since gained support of Michigan brewers across the state.

"Representative Wendzel really understands small business," said Dave Coyle, owner of Arclight Brewery in Watervliet. "This bill gives small breweries like ours a chance to grow organically without imposing burdensome overhead at too early a stage."

In addition to the Brewer's Guild testifying in support of the legislation, Round Barn Brewery and Public House also put in a card supporting the package.

Brewers are currently allowed to self-distribute their products to restaurants and grocers if they produce fewer than 1,000 barrels a year. Beyond that 1,000 barrel cap, they must sign on to work with a distribution company to take their product and sell it on their behalf.

In addition to increasing the self-distribution cap, the House package gives more flexibility to beer festivals conducting licensed events, clarifies regulations surrounding the manufacturer and wholesaler relationship, reduces the frequency of when beer and wine taxes are paid from monthly to quarterly and eliminates redundant product registration requirements.

The legislation now advances to the Senate for consideration.

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Michigan Boy Scouts say national bankruptcy won't affect local troops

By JOHN WISELY
Detroit Free Press

The Michigan Boy Scouts said Tuesday that the bankruptcy filing of the national group, the Boy Scouts of America, won't impact local scout troops.

"The Michigan Crossroads Council has not filed for bankruptcy," the group said in a statement posted on its web page Tuesday. "Our council is legally separate, distinct and financially independent from the national organization."

An error in the posting showed the statement may have come from the national group.

"In short, we expect no changes to the local Scouting experience in the [Insert] area," the statement said. It was later updated to say the Lower Peninsula.

The national group faces a barrage of lawsuits filed by boys and men who claim they were sexually abused as scouts. A lawyer representing some of the plaintiffs said last year that Boy Scout records going back to the 1940s show that almost 8,000 scout leaders have been accused of abuse over the decades.

In November, the Boy Scouts of America mortgaged one of its marquee properties, the 140,000-acre Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, to secure $446 million in credit from J.P. Morgan Chase, according to the Associated Press.

The group needed the money to deal with the lawsuits and establish a victims compensation fund.

The group said at the time that it didn't plan to sell the property, which was donated to the scouts in pieces in the late 1930s and '40s by oilman Waite Phillips of Phillips Petroleum.

Some Michigan scout supporters worry that the move could harm the lifeblood of scouting: new recruits.

"Even though there is separation between the national organization and the state organization, it is going to have some impact on the local council," said Bill Collins, a longtime scout who waged a losing battle keep the Michigan scouts from selling Camp Silver Trails outside Port Huron. "They see them as just being this less relative and more unstable group."

The Michigan Crossroads Council faces its own financial struggles amid declining membership.

The Free Press reported last year the Michigan scouts had been selling off campgrounds in recent years to balance their books amid a decline in membership.

The Michigan scouts have sold off more than 2,000 acres of woods and water in recent years, netting more than $5 million from the sales. Still, the group has struggled financially.

In an email last summer to local Scout leaders, the Michigan Crossroads Council said its finances are strong.

"It's important to note that scouting in the Michigan Crossroads Council is as strong financially and programmatically today as it's been in many years," according to the email, which was signed by council president Brad Arbuckle, commissioner Kevin Will and Scout Executive and CEO Donald Shepard Jr.

3M to pay $55M in Michigan PFAS settlement

By GARRET ELLISON
mlive.com

GRAND RAPIDS — Chemical manufacturer 3M will pay $55 million to help footwear giant Wolverine World Wide cover the cost of extending municipal water to neighborhoods with drinking water contaminated by PFAS chemicals from industrial waste dumping.

The payment was announced late afternoon Thursday, Feb. 20. It comes a day after a federal judge approved a settlement between the state of Michigan, two townships and Wolverine, in which the company will pay $69.5 million toward new municipal water mains.

The payment settles a lawsuit Wolverine brought against 3M, which the Rockford-based shoe company accused of concealed hazards posed by its Scotchgard fabric protector.

3M says the settlement releases the company from responsibility for future cleanup costs associated with the Wolverine's waste dumping in Michigan.

"This agreement will support Wolverine's work with the state of Michigan to conduct previously announced and continuing investigation and remediation activities," said John Banovetz, a senior vice president at 3M, in a statement.

Neil Blake / MLive
A couple kayak on the Rogue River adjacent to where Wolverine World Wide's tannery once stood on Aug. 14, 2017.

In December 2018, Wolverine filed a third-party complaint against 3M in an existing case against Wolverine that was brought by Michigan regulators.

For decades, 3M supplied Wolverine with Scotchgard, which was applied to shoe leather at Wolverine's former Rockford tannery. Wolverine dumped tannery waste into unlined landfills and gravel pits around the Belmont area, contaminating groundwater supplies.

This week, U.S. District Court Judge Janet Neff approved a consent decree between Wolverine, Plainfield and Algoma townships, and the state of Michigan.

Related: The 3M, Wolverine Scotchgard disaster timeline

The negotiated settlement put Wolverine on the hook for $69.5 million in new water mains and specialized filtration for the Plainfield Township municipal water system. The water mains will reach about 1,000 homes with PFAS contaminated wells, but the multi-year project will not reach all homes in the 25-square-mile contaminated zone in Northern Kent County.

About 500 homes will continue to rely on whole-house filtration systems that Wolverine must continue to maintain, depending on future test results. Wolverine estimated the municipal water project, continued filter maintenance at many homes and cleanup costs at its former tannery and House Street dump site in Belmont could reach upwards of $113 million.

The water main project is expected to begin construction this year. Wolverine is also finishing an excavation project at its former tannery and is planning to cap small areas at the House Street dump, as directed by a recent agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"I wouldn't be surprised if, when the total numbers are in, if they (Wolverine) aren't north of $200 million," said Doug Van Essen, an attorney for Plainfield Township who was part of the consent decree negotiations with the state and Wolverine.

In a statement, Wolverine CEO Blake Krueger said the company is pleased that Judge Neff approved the consent decree and that "3M is contributing towards our efforts."

Zehnder's wins a James Beard America's Classics Award

By MELODY BAETENS
The Detroit News

The national James Beard Foundation has honored longstanding Michigan restaurant Zehnder's of Frankenmuth with the 2020 America's Classic Award.

The family-friendly destination in Saginaw County is one of six restaurants this year to receive the honor, which is given to locally owned businesses that have "timeless appeal and are beloved regionally for quality food that reflects the character of its community."

More than 100 restaurants have been granted an America's Classic Award since the James Beard Foundation introduced the category in 1998. Zehnder's and others will be feted at the James Beard Awards Gala on May 4 in Chicago.

The famous restaurant's story starts in 1928 when the Zehnder family purchased the Exchange Hotel, which dates back to the 1850s. Today Zehnder's has a restaurant, tap room, golf course, event space and is home to Splash Village.

Zehnder's of Frankenmuth the restaurant is known for serving family-style fried chicken dinners with mashed potatoes, dressing, buttered egg noodles and other fixings.

Zehnder's is at 730 S. Main in Frankenmuth and is open daily at 11 a.m. Call (844) 802-8323 or visit zehnders.com.

Dearborn's Al Ameer was honored with the award in 2016.

hp HEALTH

Have news for 'Health'?

Do you have health or wellness news that you think would make a good feature story? Send it to Features Editor Andy Steinke at The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085; deliver it to 3450 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph; or email it focus@TheHP.com.

MEDICAL PEOPLE

Lakeland Heart and Vascular adds cardiologist

NILES — Spectrum Health Lakeland has added cardiologist Ogubay Mesmer to its team at Lakeland Heart and Vascular.

MESMER

Beginning March 2, he will see patients alongside Dennis Disch, MD, James Huggett, DO, and April Huggett, PA, at 61 N. St. Joseph Ave.

Mesmer completed an internship and residency program at the University of Arizona Health Science Center, and a fellowship in cardiology at the University of Arizona Medical Center.

He is board-certified in cardiovascular diseases, and trained in invasive and interventional cardiology, including cardiac catheterization, coronary angioplasty and coronary stenting.

He specializes in nuclear cardiology, and is an authorized user of radioactive material, licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

He has been a member of the Lakeland medical staff since 2002. Prior to joining Lakeland Heart and Vascular, he was in private practice at Greater Niles Cardiology.

Providers at Lakeland Heart and Vascular diagnose and treat conditions involving the cardiac system, including heart failure, atrial fibrillation, high blood pressure and coronary heart disease.

For more information, or to find a physician, visit lakelandheart.com.

Items for Medical People should be sent to The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085, faxed to 429-4398 or emailed to focus@TheHP.com.

BLOOD DRIVES

American Red Cross

■ Noon-5:45 p.m. today, American Legion, 200 W. Linden St., Three Oaks.

■ Noon-5:45 p.m. Tuesday, Pleasant View Church of Christ, 60550 Crooked Creek Road, Cassopolis.

■ 1-6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Andrews University's Pioneer Memorial Church, 400 University Blvd., Berrien Springs.

■ 10 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Wednesday, River Valley High School, 15480 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks.

■ 1-5:45 p.m. March 2, American Legion, 25751 U.S. Highway 12, Edwardsburg.

Versiti Blood Center of Michigan

■ 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

■ 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

■ Noon-5 p.m. Monday, Lakeland Hospital, Watervliet, classroom B, 400 Medical Park Drive.

■ Noon-7 p.m. Wednesday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

■ 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Thursday, St. Joseph High School, gym, 2521 Stadium Drive, St. Joseph.

■ 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 29, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

■ 7 a.m.-1 p.m. March 1, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

■ 8 a.m.-1 p.m. March 3, Watervliet High School, gym, 450 E. Red Arrow Highway, Watervliet.

Donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 112 pounds.

Steve Mellon / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette / TNS photos

Music director Susan Medley directs a rehearsal of the Pittsburgh Concert Choral at Ingomar United Methodist Church in January.

1 in 6 Americans sings in a choir

And they're healthier for it

By JEREMY REYNOLDS
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

From left, Marra Boyd, Whitney Wright and Jackie Kulfan join about 100 other singers during a rehearsal of the Pittsburgh Concert Choral.

PITTSBURGH — Laughter erupted as members of the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale warmed up their voices and lips with scales and raspberries at Ingomar United Methodist Church.

Then the choir got down to business as wisecracking director Susan Medley drilled the singers on harmony and rhythm with an infectious sense of merriment.

The chorus is just one of many community choirs around the city that exist for the sheer joy of singing. Membership has risen lately to about 100 singers ranging in age from recent college graduates to retirees in their 80s.

Some have sung professionally, but most are amateurs. They come from all over the area and from various political backgrounds.

It's no secret that America's social fabric is unraveling. Participation in churches and religious institutions is down. Fraternal organizations are shrinking. Marriage rates continue to decline. Voting is up, but volunteering is down. The differences dividing us seem greater than the similarities.

Yet group singing is gaining popularity.

While participation in church choirs is declining, more than 17 percent of adults in the U.S. participate in a choir of some sort, up from 14 percent in 2008. That's about 1 in 6 adults, according to a recent study by the service organization Chorus America.

The study identifies numerous reasons: Singing in groups has been linked to better mental and physical health, a sense of belonging and feeling connected to others, better social skills, increased civic engagement and volunteering, developing leadership skills and much more.

"Increasingly, people are thinking about constructive ways to bridge some of the gaps between people, and they're looking at issues that exist in societies today," said Liza Beth, vice president of communications and membership at Chorus America. "How can this art form that we love contribute to healthy vibrant aging? The people who love this also see this as a really important tool to address things they see in society."

She said choirs are springing up around the country dedicated to serving specific areas, such as hospice facilities, aging adults or homeless people.

Locally, choral groups ranging from community to professional have reported increased attendance or applications, and new choirs are forming all the time.

Stewart Copeland, former drummer of The Police, has partnered with the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh to create a new oratorio, "Satan's Fall." The new work follows Lucifer's fall from grace as imagined by John Milton in "Paradise Lost."

This collaboration is another in a string of creative programming by the Mendelssohn, which has also presented a Bob Dylan oratorio and a concert exploring Pittsburgh's Underground Railroad connections.

The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh is preparing to launch a new initiative to create grassroots choirs in senior centers. Then there's the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Camerata, Renaissance City Choir, the Voice Givers Choir, Greater Harmony Chorus, Belle Voci, Pittsburgh Threshold Choir, Sounds of Pittsburgh, Vocal Confluence and others.

"There's a real sense of family there, a real sense of community," said Matthew Mehaffey, music director of the Mendelssohn, which has a core group of 20 paid singers and about 100 others. The choir regularly performs with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

"There's always a group that heads for a happy hour after rehearsals on Wednesday, and everybody is incredibly welcoming to new members," he said.

At the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale's weekly rehearsal, Medley mixed disciplined practice ("Let's check that chord!"), aerobic exercise ("Stand up ... now sit down! ... Stand again!") and lighthearted banter to keep things moving ("If you're absolutely terrified of singing that high B, please email me later").

"They're a great group. If I asked them to sing on their head they would," said Medley, also director of choral activities at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pa. "Choir singing is this unique tradition that gives people a place to belong. You don't need training. It's just about making something positive and beautiful with friends."

Most of the amateur organizations rehearse just once a week in the evening. Many members started singing in grade school or high school or a church choir, but singing in a community choir doesn't require formal training. Just a low-pressure audition with the director and a willingness to be a team player.

"People run the gamut politically, but we leave that at the door," Medley said. "We're here to make music."

The Chorus America study found that older choral singers reported a better quality of life and better overall health than non-singers they knew. Nearly three-quarters of choir members said singing helps them feel less lonely.

"One of the most striking findings in our study was that choral singers are more likely to volunteer and serve in leadership positions. It's a hugely civically engaged population," Beth said.

Bernie Heisey has sung with the Mendelssohn and Bach choirs and is currently a member of the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale.

"I can have a terrible day, but coming to choir practice just makes it better," she said. "Being around these people is the highlight of my week."

IN BRIEF

PATH volunteer leader training offered in March

PAW PAW — The Region IV Area Agency on Aging will offer PATH (personal action toward health) volunteer leader training in Paw Paw beginning March 3.

The training is an opportunity for volunteers to become workshop leaders. PATH is a six-week program that teaches practical skills for living a healthy life with chronic conditions.

The workshop focuses on self-care, learning new coping strategies and sharing experiences with other group members. As a workshop leader, volunteers provide participants with the beliefs and skills they need to manage their long-term health conditions and live a healthier life.

Volunteer leaders receive training and easy-to-use instructional materials, learn new skills, and gain experience in health self-management program delivery.

The four-day training is a one-time commitment.

After the training, the leaders are asked to facilitate at least one workshop a year.

The free training will be offered on March 3, 5, 10 and 12.

For more information, or to register for training, contact Julie at 982-7759 or julieschwarz@areaaagencyonaging.org.

Niles Community Health Center opens pharmacy

NILES — Niles Community Health Center, owned and operated by Cassopolis Family Clinic Network, has opened its on-site pharmacy at 1951 Oak St.

The pharmacy – open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday – is staffed by pharmacist Kevin Klipowicz.

Opened in November, the health center offers primary care, behavioral health, obstetrics and gynecology, health care enrollment assistance and pharmacy services.

Having an on-site pharmacy is expected to decrease waiting time, promote direct communication between the provider and the pharmacist, and improve patient safety by having a consulting pharmacist on staff, according to a news release.

The pharmacy accepts most commercial insurances, Medicaid Healthcare Plans and Medicare. For those who are uninsured or underinsured, the Sliding Fee Discount Program is available to reduce the cost of health care services for those who qualify.

For more information regarding Niles Community Health Center Pharmacy, call 665-8900.

Mike Rushlow to talk diabetes at senior center

ST. JOSEPH — Mike Rushlow, RN, of Spectrum Health Lakeland, will visit the St. Joseph-Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Ave., for a series of free diabetes classes.

For the first two sessions, Rushlow, a diabetes educator, will talk about the basics (at 10 a.m. Tuesday) and carb counting (10 a.m. March 10).

Senior center programs are for those 60 and older.

To sign up for one, or all, of Rushlow's classes, call 429-7768.

Registration is required.

Alzheimer's support group meets Wednesday night

SOUTH HAVEN — The Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday at South Haven Memorial Library, 314 Broadway St.

Alzheimer's caregivers of all ages are welcome to attend.

For more information, call facilitator Ray Llorens at 637-1418 or the library at 637-2403.

The Herald-Palladium Editorial Board: DAVID HOLGATE Publisher · DAVE BROWN Managing Editor · DALE BREWER Local News Editor · KATIE KRAWCZAK Design Editor

Will Trump scare some sense into Democrats?

E.J. Dionne

While the Democratic presidential candidates tear each other to pieces, President Trump is sending a message to the country: The rule of law means nothing to him. He will weaponize the federal government to his own political purposes, and things will only get worse if he's reelected.

Trump has said many awful things, but here are his most chilling words yet: "I'm actually, I guess, the chief law enforcement officer of the country."

Trump as "the chief law enforcement officer" is akin to putting the Houston Astros in charge of policing cheating in Major League Baseball.

It should worry Democrats that as the dangers posed by four more years of Trump (and two more years of a supine GOP Senate) become clearer, their presidential race may be coming down to a choice between a billionaire and a democratic socialist. "'Tis the final conflict," as The Internationale, the old anthem of the left, put it. It's hard to imagine a confrontation more likely to shatter the party.

Everything that Mike Bloomberg and Bernie Sanders say about each other will play into the hands of the king of divide-and-conquer. Trump will use their fight to split off one part of the Democratic coalition, or the other. No wonder the president is acting as if he has absolute power.

Consider his 11 pardons, clemencies and commutations on Tuesday. The writers of our Constitution tried to guard against potential overreach by presidents, but they never reckoned with the possibility that someone such as Trump would lead our government. So they gave the president unlimited pardon power.

Naturally, Trump is abusing it.

Just to name three of those who received Trump's mercy: He commuted the sentence of Rod Blagojevich, the former governor of Illinois, convicted of trying to sell Barack Obama's Senate seat when Obama resigned after his 2008 election as president. Trump pardoned Edward DeBartolo Jr., the former owner of the San Francisco 49ers, convicted in connection with an illegal payment for a casino license. And then there was the pardon for Bernard Kerik, who served as New York City police commissioner when Rudy Giuliani was mayor, jailed for tax fraud and false statements.

It is by no means far-fetched to think about these actions as Trump's way of softening us all up for pardons-to-come to those who have directly served his interests, including Roger Stone, Michael Flynn and Paul Manafort. As Washington Post blogger Paul Waldman noted, "what Trump is really after is the normalization of corruption."

Then came word to the Post from Attorney General William Barr's circle that "he is considering quitting over Trump's tweets about Justice Department investigations."

Maybe Barr will shock us and resign at some point. But his servility to Trump up to now – from his radical public distortion of special counsel Robert Mueller's report to his intervention, against the wishes of prosecutors, to reduce the sentencing request in Roger Stone's case – makes the claim about his distress look like an exercise in public relations. The attorney general seems quite happy to serve Trump's interests by bending the Justice Department to the president's will. He just doesn't want his exertions advertised on Twitter.

"He has his limits," a Barr associate told the Post about the attorney general. It would be lovely to learn exactly what they are.

In the meantime, the Democratic presidential candidates turn inward. Yes, much of this is inevitable in a primary. Each of these candidates thinks she or he would make the best president and the best opponent to Trump. They'll do what they have to do to prevail. And better that each of them be vetted thoroughly now rather than have the party discover a nominee's fatal flaw only after it's too late.

But this is not a normal time. We have seen too many cases in history when authoritarian leaders triumphed because their opponents were so focused on adversaries within their own camp that they lost track of the larger struggle to preserve democracy and free government.

Thus a modest suggestion: Can these Democratic candidates start competing over who is best positioned to bring together the majority of Americans who disapprove of how Trump is running things? Can they try to prove it by reaching out now to constituencies not part of their own natural base – and by taming the furies within their own factions? Can they look at the smirk on Trump's face and realize the damage they'll do our nation if they just pretend that this primary is like every other?

E.J. Dionne is a columnist for The Washington Post.

It couldn't happen to a nicer guy

Kathleen Parker

When you think of sleaze balls, well, so many come to mind these days. But surely topping the list is the man who once swore he was the only person who could bring down President Trump.

Instead, the president seems to be soaring while Michael Avenatti, former media magnet and porn-star lawyer, has plummeted to the ground in a heap of ash that even composters won't touch.

Avenatti has referred to himself as Icarus, but that's a rather romantic self-appraisal. There's a difference between flying too close to the sun and being a common crook. Last week, after a two-week trial that made hardly a ripple in the press, a jury of his peers found Avenatti guilty of attempted extortion, transmission of interstate communications with intent to extort, and honest services wire fraud.

It's a little ironic that the trial of Michael Avenatti, who not long ago commanded prime time hits on CNN and MSNBC, was nudged aside by Trump's own impeachment trial. Adding insult to injury, the once-dapper Avenatti spent much of the past year awaiting trial in solitary confinement, reportedly in the same New York prison cell once occupied by Mexican drug kingpin El Chapo.

On these charges alone, Avenatti faces up to 42 years in prison. He faces additional charges in California for allegedly defrauding clients and in Manhattan for pocketing about $300,000 intended as a book advance for Stormy Daniels, who allegedly had an affair with Trump in 2006.

He loved being on the tube, loved the attention, loved everything about himself and his successful manipulation of the all-too-obliging media. He cared as much about media as he did about money because for him, the two were interchangeable; media time equaled more clients, and hence more billings.

His extortion trial stemmed from an epic plan he confected from a client's allegations that Nike was paying the families of college-bound basketball stars. The client, former coach Gary Franklin, ran a Los Angeles youth basketball team called the California Supreme when Nike decided not to continue sponsoring the team. Franklin hired Avenatti hoping he could restore the sponsorship deal and reveal evidence that Nike was funneling payments to high school basketball recruits with the intention of having them play for Nike-sponsored teams. Franklin, who was not charged with a crime, alleges that Nike employees told him to pay tens of thousands of dollars to the parents of three recruits and "submit fraudulent invoices to the company for reimbursement."

Sensing deep pockets and a way out of some personal debts, Avenatti demanded that Nike pay his client $1.5 million. And, without Franklin's knowledge, he then demanded that Nike hire him for another $25 million to conduct an internal investigation of Nike's practices. If Nike refused, Avenatti threatened to publicize the accusations against the sports apparel company and hold news conferences that would lead to more TV appearances for Avenatti.

The clincher for jurors, who apparently didn't buy his justice-seeking defense was likely the recordings of Avenatti hurling demands and threats at Nike representatives.

Without his usual charm, Avenatti in one instance said: "I want to be really f---ing clear. I'm not f---ing around and not playing games. It's worth more in exposure to me. A few million dollars doesn't move the needle for me. If that's what we're looking at, then we're done. I'll go ahead with a press conference. I'll call the New York Times, who are awaiting my call. I'll go ahead and take $10 billion off your market cap."

It turns out that Avenatti was having financial troubles, according to testimony by his former office manager Judy Regnier, and saw the shakedown scheme as a way to "clear the debt," she said.

Being a con seems to be an addiction where the next con has to be bigger than the last. The thing about grifting is, once you start, it's hard to stop.

Sadly, for cable TV producers, what would have been Avenatti's biggest con – a campaign for the presidency, which he briefly threatened to pursue – failed to materialize.

But perhaps that will give him something to plan while he is in jail and off the streets. Cable loves a comeback story.

Kathleen Parker is a columnist for The Washington Post. Email: kathleenparker@washpost.com.

LETTERS

Area's kind residents went above and beyond

Editor,

In this season of extreme negativity, I would like to share something to be proud of, if you live in this area.

My dad and his family moved here from war-torn Germany in the 1950s. Folks around here helped to find the family a place to live and jobs. No one loved this area more than my dad.

When he suddenly passed away, folks around here still supported him. The kindness and support from his attorney, Craig Jennings, and staff was unbelievable! All went so smoothly. Then, when we had to sell his car, we didn't know what to do. All of us kids live a long way from here, and he owned a Volkswagen. My sister called Signature Dealer Group (mainly a Toyota dealership), and first they showed extreme compassion, then said bring the car in. They gave us a very good price and made it so easy for us. This was over-the-top kindness.

It didn't end there. A few weeks later, I received a phone call from the salesman, Larry Arel. My dad's camera was found in the car. He had to do some detective work to find me, and in two days, I had the camera returned to me. You folks in this area should be proud to be residents of Benton Harbor and St. Joe.

Rosi Holmes
Hinckley, Minn.

Jailing marijuana dealers for life is cruel

Editor,

Why isn't Gov. Gretchen Whitmer not following President Donald Trump's lead with federal prison reform's First Step Act? No one should be in jail for selling human catnip.

For every street-corner seller, there's a 3-pound supplier and a 60-pound wholesaler for them. Can a distributor be any more dangerous than a user/customer? At minimum street prices, 3 pounds of marijuana would be worth over $5,000. You certainly must possess a gun to protect that, whether it is legal or not.

If a cannabis supplier never robbed, brandished or threatened a buyer/customer with it, then mere possession should be only a hand-slapping fine if it's not registered – confiscation if it was used illegally – but never a felony charge. The law should not be more criminal than the behavior it seeks to punish.

White sellers sell out of houses so they don't get arrested, while black kids sell on street corners, getting jailed or killed by drive-by's. No man should be in prison for life over victimless crimes.

Terry Edwards
Benton Harbor

Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:

Email: letters@TheHP.com

Regular mail: Editorial Page, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085

All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification. Letters must be 500 words or fewer. The Herald-Palladium reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel. Anonymous letters will not be published.

ANOTHER OPINION

'Infodemic' is another coronavirus threat

Chinese President Xi Jinping has declared a "people's war" against the coronavirus.

But as Aeschylus, the ancient Greek playwright, apocryphally said, "In war, truth is the first casualty."

And so it seems in China, epicenter of the epidemic, where truth and trust are in as short of supply as surgical masks reportedly are.

The ability of international institutions and other governments to rapidly respond to the outbreak was compromised by China's initially opaque response to the virus. The relative reticence of Xi to take the lead made matters worse, which is perhaps why the Chinese president has more publicly reemerged after his conspicuous absence at the start of the virus crisis.

Beijing recently released a speech Xi made to the normally secretive Politburo Standing Committee in which he claimed that he had "issued demands about the efforts to prevent and control" the virus on Jan. 7, weeks before he publicly spoke about the outbreak that would soon break beyond China's borders to become a global health concern. But instead of quelling the controversy, the speech has only led to more questions about the alacrity and efficacy of China's response, which is in keeping with Beijing's authoritarian approach.

The party's "campaign of repression and censorship in this new health crisis is not an anomaly. It is the rule," Prachi Vidwans, a Human Rights Foundation research associate told an editorial writer in an email exchange. When the virus emerged, "the government responded with opacity, hoping to prevent bad news from affecting its approval rating and its economy," Vidwans said. Of course, both have happened: Even in an increasingly Orwellian China, dissent – especially after the death of a doctor who was reprimanded for reporting the disease early on – has emerged. And China's economy has been hit – just as others will be, given the nation's outsized economic role. Indeed, Apple, which announced on Monday that the virus would take a bite out of revenue, won't be the last multinational firm hit by the global crisis.

"This is a case where you can see how authoritarianism elsewhere affects you, even if you live in a free and democratic country," Vidwans said.

Including America, which should be the global exemplar of transparency.

That task would be difficult in any circumstances. It will be particularly challenging in what the World Health Organization calls an "infodemic" – which the WHO describes as "an overabundance of information – some accurate and some not – that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it."

America's world-class scientific community can combat this infodemic with data-driven conclusions. Everyday people can help, too, by arming themselves with legitimate information and not allowing xenophobia to exacerbate the crisis. And given their legislative and publicity platform, lawmakers have a special responsibility to focus on facts, which is why it is so disappointing that Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) took to Fox News to further the already-debunked theory that the virus was potentially connected to a biosafety lab in Wuhan, China.

Geopolitics are already strained with the new virus, and conspiracy theories will only solidify a drift that may make it even harder to garner Chinese cooperation.

Geopolitics are already strained with the new virus, and conspiracy theories will only solidify a drift that may make it even harder to garner Chinese cooperation. Cotton, and others not operating with substantiated facts, should be more responsible.

The U.S. cannot control China's authoritarian tendencies.

It can, however, offer a model of transparency and truth that the world needs now more than ever.

– Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Photos by Ethan Riepl / St. Louis Zoo via AP

Binti, a black and white colobus monkey holds her newborn brother Teak, born Feb. 3 at the St. Louis zoo. A baby colobus monkey is born with all-white hair and a pink face reaching adult coloration, with black hair and white hair around the face and part of their tails, around 6 months of age.

New colobus monkey makes debut at St. Louis Zoo

By JIM SALTER
Associated Press

Binti holds her newborn brother Teak at the zoo.

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Zoo has a new resident, and boy is he cute.

The zoo announced Thursday that Teak, a black and white colobus monkey, was born on Feb. 3. Colobus monkeys are born white with a pink face. By age 6 months, the little monkey will get his adult coloration – mostly black hair but with white hair around the face and part of the tail, though adults also have a distinctive mantle of long white hair from their shoulders around the edge of their backs.

Colobus monkeys live in families with several females sharing in the care of newborns, a behavior called allomothering. Teak's mother, Cecelia, has raised five babies of her own along with three other babies in the family, the zoo said.

Teak's father, Kima, watches over the family and often interacts with the youngsters, the zoo said. Teak's sister and his half-sister also interact with and help care for Teak.

"This is a skill necessary for younger female members of the troop to learn and participate in so that they, too, can become successful mothers in the future," the zoo's primate keeper, Ethan Riepl, said in a news release.

The monkeys, also known as Guereza colobus, are native to east and central Africa. The zoo said Teak's birth is part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Colobus Species Survival Plan, a program that seeks to to manage a genetically healthy population of black and white colobus monkeys in North American zoos.

'Black in Space' looks at final frontier of civil rights

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — In 1959, Ronald Erwin McNair walked into a South Carolina library. The 9-year-old aspiring astronaut wanted to check out a calculus book, but a librarian threatened to call the police if he didn't leave. McNair was black.

Years later, McNair was selected to become only the second African American to travel to space, overcoming segregation, poverty, and stereotypes in an intellectual act of resistance that inspired a generation. Tragically, McNair died in the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger tragedy.

McNair's story and those of other black astronauts are shared in a new documentary that looks at the final frontier of civil rights: getting black astronauts into space amid Jim Crow, danger, discrimination and the Cold War. Within four generations, they went from slavery to space.

"Black in Space: Breaking the Color Barrier," scheduled to air Monday on the Smithsonian Channel, examines the race to get black astronauts into the heavens while fighting for human rights onEarth. It shows how the astronauts surmounted racial barriers and hostile commanders to get close to the stars.

"They really are the first of the first," filmmaker Laurens Grant said. "And they are the elite of the elite."

Not only did these aspiring space travelers have to navigate the racial politics of their time, they also had to study cutting-edge science and engineering to compete with others, Grant said.

And it didn't always end happily.

The road to get black astronauts into space in the U.S. began under President John. F. Kennedy. His brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, pressured an Air Force program to make sure its astronaut project had a person of color.

Air Force Capt. Ed Dwight was selected for a trainee program and became an overnight hero in the black press. However, the NASA program did not select him for the astronaut program.

AP file photo

Guion Bluford, Jr., shuttle Challenger mission specialist, is shown in portrait on returning to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas on Sept. 15, 1983. The documentary "Black in Space: Breaking the Color Barrier" is scheduled to air on the Smithsonian Channel on Monday and examines the race to get black astronauts into space.

OBITUARIES

Mike Downey

Sept 22, 1949 – Feb. 18, 2020

Mike Downey was born on Sept. 22, 1949, in Black Oak, Ark., to Woodrow and Dovie Downey. He left this world on Feb. 18, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

Mike was married to Florence (Sue) Brinsfield on Oct. 25, 1969. Two weeks after their wedding, Mike left to serve his country in Vietnam. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne.

Mike and Sue are parents to Kristen (Scott) Dixon, Holly (Brandon) Wolfe and April (Mike) Brown. Being a "girl dad" was something he loved. He taught them how to fish, hunt and coached their softball teams. As much as he loved being a dad, his favorite things to be called were Grandpa, Papa or Gramps. He leaves his legacy of love and sense of humor to his grandkids: Phillip, Dixon, Amanda (David) Paine, Delaney, Darcy, Tori, Taylor, Skyler, Garrett and Melody. Also, his great-granddaughters, Aubree Dixon and Lennox Paine.

He is survived by his wife, daughters, grandchildren and his siblings: Wayne (Sandy) Downey, Larry (Dovie) Downey, Guy (Judy) Downey, Cis (Dewey) Hiler, Stanley (Diane) Downey, Theresa Stark, Kimberly Copeman, and Keith Downey. He also leaves to cherish his memory his best buddy, Chuck (Lynn) Cartwright and their daughters, Teri, Kerry and Jodie; his Brazilian son, Danilo Takaesu; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his in-laws, Roy and Marion Brinsfield; brothers-in-law: Dale, Kenny and Bobby Brinsfield, Melvin Anders and Brian Stark; sisters-in-law, Lois Anders and O'Nieta Brinsfield.

Mike was a fun, roll-with-it kind of guy. He was an amazing husband, grandpa, brother, uncle and friend. Mike brightened the lives of those he encountered.

The family will welcome friends from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Calvin Funeral Home, Hartford. Following visitation, cremation will take place. Those wishing to leave condolences for the family may do so at www.calvin-leonardfh.com. To honor Mike and his love for watching his grandkids play whatever sports they enjoy, in lieu of flowers, donations, in memory of dad, can be made to: Coloma Boosters, P.O. Box 166, Coloma, MI 49038.

There was no place he would rather be than in some bleachers ... sideline coaching!

THANK A VETERAN!

Death notices

Mike Downey, 70, of Hartford, died Feb. 18, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Calvin Funeral Home, Hartford, 621-4101.

Andrew Joseph Hunt, 11-day-old infant, of Benton Harbor died Feb. 17, 2020, at Memorial Hospital, South Bend, Ind. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Donnis H. "Don" Stewart, 69, of Coloma died Feb. 18, 2020, at home. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Donna M. White, 66, of Stevensville died Feb. 20, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Donna Marie White

Nov. 24, 1953 – Feb. 20, 2020

Donna Marie White, 66, of Stevensville passed away Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Pike Funeral and Cremation Services, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Hwy., Bridgman. Friends may meet with the family from 5-7 p.m. Monday. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery, Bridgman. Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice at Home, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

Donna was born Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1953, in St. Joseph. Donna enjoyed gardening, mushroom hunting and spending time with her grandchildren. She will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her daughters, April (Steve Copeland) Binns, Christina (Jake) Busick and Sara (Michael) Raulerson; five grandchildren: Jordan (Carlie) Yerington, Payton (Spencer Hoffman) Yerington, Raegan Yerington, Alexander Ryan and Michael Dylan Raulerson; one great-grandson, Easton Yerington; sister, Sue (Joe) Rambo; brother, David (Tara) Kunde; stepbrothers, Paul (Tracy) Harvey, Sean (Dawn) Harvey, Brian (Barb) Kunde and Kris Aldrich; stepsisters, Jessica Kramer and Pam Bousfina; and dear friend and companion, Curt Haman.

Donna was preceded by sisters, Bonnie Rambo and Geri Herman.

Madalyn J. (Sweet) Pagels

June 22, 1941 – Feb. 18, 2020

Madalyn J. (Sweet) Pagels was called to her heavenly home on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020.

A Celebration of Life Service will take place at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at Twelve Corners Community Church, 3902 Hicks Ave., Benton Harbor, with Pastor Richard Sing officiating. Burial will follow in North Shore Memory Gardens. Friends may visit with the family from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph. Memorial contributions may be made to Twelve Corners Community Church or the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Madalyn was born on June 22, 1941, in Benton Harbor, to Aldrich Skibbe and Elsie (Bahn) Skibbe. Madalyn grew up on a farm in Millburg and began her working career away from the farm at Producers Creamery, followed by Whirlpool, Clark Equipment and AEP. Madalyn had a love for life and enjoyed the farm, traveling, shopping, eating out, and most of all, her family.

Surviving are her husband of 39 years, Carl; son, Dean Sweet; grandsons, Adam (Shannon) Thomas and Scott (Jessica) Thomas; great-grandchildren; brother, Ross (Deb) Skibbe; niece, Sarah (Joe) Brokshire (and her children, Josephine and Sullivan); and nephew, Dustin (Britney) Skibbe (and his children, Weston and Aubry).

Madalyn was preceded in death by her parents, Aldrich and Elsie Skibbe; sister, Nancy Skibbe; and daughter, Amanda Thomas.

Clarence Barnes Jr.

March 10, 1941 – Feb. 8, 2020

Clarence Barnes Jr., 78, of Chicago passed away Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, at Mercy Hospital.

Clarence was born on March 10, 1941, in Shaw, Miss., to the late Clarence Sr. and Wyona (Thompson) Barnes. He grew up alongside his 11 siblings. At the age of 19, he moved to Covert. He accepted Christ at an early age. In April of 1983, Clarence married Audrey Keller. He later became a Mason.

He retired as a truck driver and in his spare time he worked alongside his brother, Joe, at Smokin Joe's BBQ. He was known as "Captain" among family and friends. In his leisure time, he enjoyed baseball, Chicago Cubs, watching "The Price is Right" and listening to gospel music.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Audrey; his brothers, Joseph (Sheryl) who passed on the same day, as well as Willie and Robert Barnes; sisters, Virgie Barnes, Elnora (Leroy) Foster, Annie (John) Davis, and Pearlie (Charles) Gray.

Clarence leaves to cherish: his daughter, Deloise (Calvin) Buries of Georgia; grandchildren, Joshua Booker Sr. (Shalanda); great-grandson, Joshua Booker Jr.; stepchildren, Judy Keller, Rodney Keller, Kenny Keller, Kevin Keller and Melisa Keller; and a host of grandchildren. He will also be missed by his brothers, Charles and J. B. (Antoinette) Barnes; sisters, Maggie (Jose) Lee and Ruby Tinsley; and a host of relatives and friends.

Services to honor Clarence's life will be held at noon on Friday, Feb. 21, at Brown Funeral Home. A time of visitation will begin at 11 a.m.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

In rough U.S. flu season for kids, vaccine working OK so far

By MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — It may end up being a bad flu season for kids, but early signs suggest the vaccine is working OK.

The vaccine has been more than 50 percent effective in preventing flu illness severe enough to send a child to the doctor's office, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday. Health experts consider that pretty good.

The vaccines are made each year to protect against three or four different kinds of flu virus. The ingredients are based on predictions of what strains will make people sick the following winter. It doesn't always work out.

This flu season has featured two waves, each dominated by a different virus. Both of those flu bugs are considered dangerous to children, but tend not to be as dangerous to the elderly.

Health officials grew worried when it became clear that the vaccine didn't match the Type B flu strain that ended up causing most early season illnesses. But the CDC estimates that the vaccine has been about 50 percent effective against that strain in children.

And the vaccine has been about 55 percent effective among kids against the Type A strain that has caused a second wave of flu illnesses.

"These estimates are reassuring," said the CDC's Brendan Flannery, who oversees the agency's system for evaluating the vaccine.

Vaccines against many infectious diseases aren't considered successful unless they work at least 90 percent of the time. But flu is particularly challenging, partly because the virus can so quickly change. Overall, flu vaccine averages around 40 percent.

This season, the vaccine has been 45 percent effective against both types of flu across all ages.

That can change as the flu season progresses. Updated vaccine numbers are expected later this year.

One troubling finding: This season's vaccine has been virtually ineffective vs. the Type A virus in younger adults. The reason is a mystery, but may change as more data comes in, Flannery said.

BIRTHS

Lakeland Medical Center – Niles

Buchanan – Girl, 6 pounds, 3 ounces, Micaela Brewster, 10:30 a.m. Feb. 8.

Niles – Boy, 5 pounds, 7 ounces, Stephanie Henslee and Zecharias Warren, 4:31 a.m. Feb. 9.

Lakeland Medical Center – St. Joseph

Benton Harbor – Girl, 7 pounds, 12 ounces, Kylie and Austin Blevins, 3:15 a.m. Feb. 18.

Benton Harbor – Girl, 7 pounds, 7 ounces, Evelean Cotton-Cottle and Raffeyel Cottle, 4:07 p.m. Feb. 13.

Benton Harbor – Girl, 8 pounds, 11 ounces, Samantha and Nicholas Daily, 1:03 p.m. Feb. 14.

Benton Harbor – Boy, 8 pounds, 2 ounces, Tekasia Spencer and Quincy Sulton, 10:43 a.m. Feb. 16.

Decatur – Girl, 6 pounds, 5 ounces, Margaret Cawley and Herbert Ward, 4:12 p.m. Feb. 15.

St. Joseph – Boy, 7 pounds, 13 ounces, Harley Harp, 3:39 p.m. Feb. 16.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

ST. JOSEPH – The following marriage licenses have been issued by Berrien County Clerk Sharon Tyler.

Rebecca Dawn Cahill of Buchanan and Kenneth Jeffrey St. Clair of Galien.

Nicole Genese Glover of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Raymond Lamont Landry of Benton Harbor.

Deana Marie LaVanway and Willie Murray Braddock Jr., both of Benton Harbor.

Jillian Monet Lawrence of Lake Mary, Fla., and Robert Walter Vulcano of Berrien Springs.

Michaela Ann Moss of Watervliet and Joseph Allen Pasternak of Dowagiac.

Kaelee Sue Marie Rickman and Cain Willington Wilbur, both of Watervliet.

Lynette Marie Routheaux and Darrell Alonso Pearson, both of Berrien Springs.

Bryana Rena Tomes and Nickolas Jordan-Elliott Sirk, both of Watervliet.

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories.

If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Local News Editor Dale Brewer at 429-3797.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

St. Joseph Public Schools Superintendent Fred Richardson told school board members that interviews could begin next week to hire 20 new teachers to fill vacancies for 1995-1996.

Sixteen teachers who gave notice before the December 1994 deadline are participating in the district's one-time buyout program that pays them half their annual salary to resign. New teachers will be hired at half the annual pay the more experienced teachers earned.

35 years ago – 1985

Malcolm Dade Jr., new chairman of the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, is a 1947 graduate of Benton Harbor High School. Dade, 53, is the son of Esther Clay, St. Joseph, a retired teacher in the Benton Harbor School District, and Malcolm Dade, retired canon of the Episcopal Cathedral, Detroit.

Gov. James Blanchard appointed Dade to the MSU board to fill the eight-year term of John Bruff, who was elected in 1982 and then resigned to accept a post in the Blanchard administration.

50 years ago – 1970

Pediatrician-author Dr. Benjamin Spock predicted Nixon would be out in 1972 as he addressed some 600 persons at Benton Harbor High School last night. He is one of the most outspoken critics of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

The program was cut short by 15 minutes after police received a bomb threat phone call. The high school gym was cleared, but a bomb was never found.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2020. There are 314 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Feb. 21, 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 ½ to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up (each ended up serving a year and a-half).

On this date:

In 1613, Mikhail Romanov, 16, was unanimously chosen by Russia's national assembly to be czar, beginning a dynasty that would last three centuries.

In 1862, Nathaniel Gordon became the first and only American slave-trader to be executed under the U.S. Piracy Law of 1820 as he was hanged in New York.

In 1945, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318 men.

In 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam. (Three men were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all were eventually paroled.)

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In 2018, the Rev. Billy Graham, a confidant of presidents and the most widely heard Christian evangelist in history, died at his North Carolina home; he was 99.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Scattered Rain	Scattered Rain
34°	26°	41° / 33°	43° / 37°	40° / 30°	37° / 29°

Local Outlook

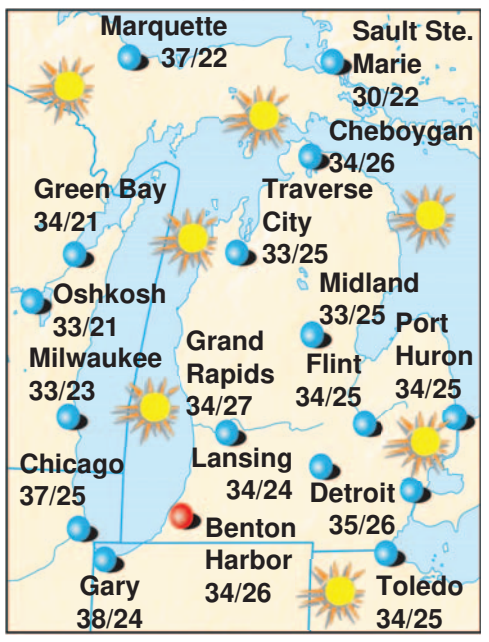
Today we will see sunny skies, high of 34°, humidity of 46%. Southwest wind 13 to 18 mph. Expect clear skies tonight, overnight low of 26°. Southwest wind 11 to 19 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 18°. Saturday, skies will be sunny, high of 41°, humidity of 51%.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	7:33 a.m.
Sunset	6:25 p.m.
Moonrise	6:48 a.m.
Moonset	4:30 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
2/23	3/2	3/9	3/16

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	25°
Low	15°
Normal High	37°
Normal Low	21°
Record High	68° in 2017
Record Low	-14° in 2015

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	0.66"
Normal for month	1.00"
Year to date	4.52"
Normal Year to date	2.75"

Air Quality

Yesterday 37

Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

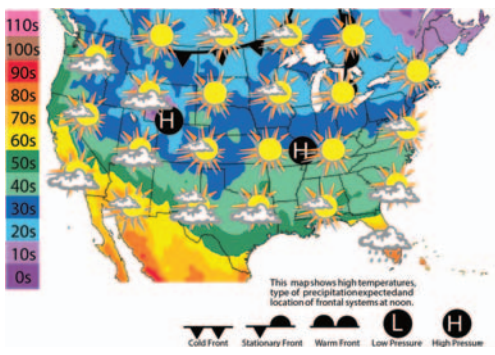
Weather Trivia

What is the "green sky" effect?

Answer: A greenish tint to the sky is often a precursor to hail.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Feb. 21, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, SW wind 15 to 18 kt, with gusts as high as 25 kt. Widespread freezing spray. Sunny. Waves 3 to 4 ft. Water temperature 34 degrees.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be sunny with highs in the 30s. Southwest wind 11 to 23 mph. Expect partly cloudy to mostly cloudy skies Saturday with highs in the 30s. Southwest wind 8 to 11 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be sunny with highs in the 30s. Southwest wind 13 to 18 mph. Expect sunny skies Saturday with highs in the 30s and 40s. Southwest wind 9 to 14 mph.

TOURS

From page A1

Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties, plus most of Allegan County. The industry supports 141 businesses and 3,045 jobs. The annual economic impact of recreational boating in the state is $7.4 billion, with the state's tourism industry in general generating $17.7 billion in economic activity annually.

Lake Michigan water levels were at near-record highs during most of 2019 and set a new record-high level for the month of January, previously set in 1987, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

And the Army Corps is predicting that water levels could rise another 12 inches this spring.

Benton Harbor marina

While touring Riverview Drive Park along the St. Joseph River in Benton Harbor, several docks could be seen almost level with the water, with an unknown number already under water.

"And this is a calm day," said St. Joseph Mayor Michael Garey, who toured the marinas with Upton and Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad.

The National Weather Service has issued a gale warning from 1 p.m. today through 1 a.m. Saturday for St. Joseph up to Manistee, with 6- to 11-feet waves expected.

"The speed of the increase of water level – that's what's so surprising," Garey said. "We've had high water before, but it's been more of a gentle curve. This really happened the last two to three years, so we are facing something that is unusual. I appreciate the creative ideas and solutions to handle the problem."

Muhammad said Benton Harbor's plans at economic development could stymied by the high lake levels.

"We have 625 acres that we are looking to aggressively develop," he said. "But when we have this kind of setback in terms of flooding, it can possibly ill-effect our plan in terms of the timeline of how we want to go about this development."

Muhammad said he has also met with the director of the Michigan Department of Transportation about what can be done about the recurrent flooding of Main Street in front of the Whirlpool complex. When that portion of the road is flooded, drivers can only reach a handful of businesses after crossing the Bicentennial Bridge before hitting the flooded area.

"His staff is in the process right now to come up with a ... temporary way to solve the issue so we don't have the excessive flooding that we are experiencing," he said.

Photos by Louise Wrege / HP Staff

ABOVE: Some of the docks at Riverview Drive Park along the St. Joseph River in Benton Harbor are nearly underwater on Thursday, which was a calm day with no waves. RIGHT: U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow listens Thursday as South Haven Mayor Scott Smith points out the damage that Lake Michigan's high water level has created at South Beach, and along the bluffs south of the beach.

St. Joseph shoreline

Garey said his city has worked with homeowners to put in shoreline protection from Silver Beach to just south of the city's water treatment plant.

"We recognize that this issue is not going to go away, and we need to work with our residents to maintain their biggest asset, their private homes," he said.

He said he appreciates any help Congress can give.

"We also appreciate the idea to look at different solutions, because Mother Nature doesn't care what we do, so we need to look at some other ways to handle this, some things we haven't done in the past," he said.

High water levels also raise safety concerns. Upton said boats need electricity to recharge their batteries and to run numerous other items. He said some marinas are considering month-by-month rentals because they have to turn the power off when the water is too high so people aren't electrocuted.

In addition, Upton said he helped introduce the bipartisan Safer Harbors for Our Recreational Economy (SHORE) Act last week that, if signed into law, would require the Corps of Engineers and the Office of Management and Budget to consider recreation-based industries in their cost-benefit analysis procedures for harbor maintenance projects.

Upton said that would ensure that recreational boating is considered when the Corps is deciding which projects to authorize.

Stabenow visits

Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, was in South Haven on Thursday afternoon taking a similar tour of hard-hit areas. She invited representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and FEMA to attend a brief roundtable discussion regarding what types of aid could be available to help mitigate damage from erosion and flooding along the lakeshore and the Black River.

"This is a huge, huge issue. It's just mind boggling. We're listening and trying to figure out what we can do to help. This is happening in many places. Climate change is the bigger issue that needs to be dealt with long-term," Stabenow said.

But if there is any financial relief for shoreline communities, it won't come soon. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's 2020-21 budget calls for $40 million to protect the Great Lakes, but the soonest funds would be available is October. Federal funds, if made available through Congress, wouldn't be available until October 2021 due to the budget cycle.

"In the short-term we're looking at all the resources that are available," Stabenow said. "I wish there was one single solution. There isn't."

Patrick Kuhne, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers chief for emergency management in Detroit, had this to say. "We can provide technical assistance, but it is limited to flooding (situations). Most of what I've seen is erosion-related."

Jerrod Sanders, assistant director of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy's Water Resources Division, also lent a sympathetic ear. "It's stark to see the amount of damage you're dealing with," he said.

Stabenow urged city leaders to keep her abreast of funding requests that they are seeking at the state and federal level.

Upton and Stabenow spent part of the afternoon in South Haven touring the Southside Marina, which may not open this year due flooding of its docks; the South and North piers; South Beach, which lost most of its sand last year; and Monroe Boulevard bluff and Evergreen Bluff, where significant erosion is occurring.

Becky Kark contributed to this report.

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BOARD

From page A1

defendants now have a public defender at their earliest court appearance, arraignment, requiring a prosecutor to also be present. That has held true. Further, cases are taking longer and requiring more hearings, although the end results are often the same, Sepic has said.

The additional attorney will be funded from the county's contingency fund for 2020 and incorporated into the prosecutor's budget thereafter, the resolution approved Thursday noted.

800 MHZ tower

In another matter, the county board moved forwarded with the addition of a tower that will enhance communications for emergency management and public safety. The county will enter into a radio system co-location agreement with Spectrum Health Lakeland to place a communications tower atop Lakeland Hospital, Watervliet; and a Motorola Corp. lease/purchase contract and agreement with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget, Michigan Public Safety Communication System, to establish a network-approved tower at the hospital.

On the recommendation of its administration committee, the board approved earmarking $200,000 in "911 Millage-MSP 800 MHZ" account project funds as a down payment toward the $637,000 project, with the remaining balance paid through lease/purchase payments from the 911 Operations budget.

The county has been planning for years to decommission the aging and antiquated countywide VHF public safety radio system and upgrade to 800 MHZ, and is partnering with the MPSCS to invest in local signal enhancement projects to improve communication coverage.

The area surrounding the Paw Paw Lake and River basin in northernmost Berrien County was determined to be a location in need of enhanced signal coverage. Berrien County 911 worked with Motorola to identify the best locations with suitable elevation to locate a tower that will improve two-way land mobile radio coverage.

Officials determined that besides elevation, criteria should include security, sheltering, power supply and electrical grounding protection requirements. The hospital in Watervliet was determined to be the best location.

Also Thursday, The board authorized County Administrator Bill Wolf to approve contract modifications up to 5 percent of the cost of a road improvement project on Napier Avenue at the Crystal Avenue intersection. The project involves upgrading the traffic signal at the intersection and conducting concrete sidewalk ramp work.

Road Department Director Jason Latham said although there are no sidewalks at the intersection, the project is receiving federal funds so has to be ADA-compliant, so sidewalk ramps must be put in.

The total estimated cost as determined by the state through a bid process is $200,100, with the county's share of $40,100 having been figured into the road department's 2020 budget.

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hp SPORTS

NFL owners approve of new CBA; players decide next

Page B2

Nati Harnik / AP

Michigan State's Cassius Winston (5) drives between Nebraska's Jervay Green (23) and Nebraska forward Yvan Ouedraogo (24) during the first half of Thursday's game.

Michigan State shakes off sloppy play to beat Nebraska

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Cassius Winston scored 23 points, Gabe Brown had career highs with 17 points and five 3-pointers, and Michigan State overcame sloppy play to beat Nebraska 86-65 on Thursday night.

Michigan St. 86 Nebraska 65

The Spartans (18-9, 10-6 Big Ten) turned over the ball a season-high 22 times but made 13 3-pointers and outrebounded the Cornhuskers 51-26.

They busted open the game with a 22-8 run in the middle of the second half. Nebraska (7-19, 2-13) dropped its 11th straight game, the most consecutive losses in the same season in program history.

Michigan State got a season-high 14 points from Kyle Ahrens, and Aaron Henry had 13 points, with six coming early in the decisive run. Xavier Tillman, playing three days after his wife gave birth to the couple's second child, had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Dachon Burke led the Huskers with 21 points, and Haanif Cheatham added 14.

Michigan State's problems holding onto the ball prevented it from getting separation until well after halftime. Just when it looked like the Spartans might begin pulling away, Nebraska converted three straight turnovers into two fast-break baskets and a free throw to pull within 48-46.

Then the Spartans used an 11-1 spurt to take their first double-digit lead, and they went on to win easily.

Michigan State opened the game missing six of its first seven 3s before heating up. Brown made two in a row and Winston and Ahrens one each while quickly turning a six-point deficit into a six-point lead.

But a combination of strong defense by Nebraska and sloppiness by the Spartans kept the Huskers in the game. Burke, who scored 18 points in the first half, hit three straight 3s for the Huskers to tie it 36-all before Henry's 3 put the Spartans up 39-36 at the break.

BIG PICTURE

Michigan State: The Spartans have been out of the Top 25 for two weeks and came to Lincoln off losses in four of their previous five games, including a gut-punch defeat home to Maryland on Saturday. They aren't all the way out of the Big Ten race, but

See **SPARTANS**, page B3

Gregory Bull / AP

Chicago White Sox manager Rick Renteria smiles during spring training baseball Feb. 15, in Phoenix.

Renteria gets a full shot at turning White Sox around

By JACK THOMPSON
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Rick Renteria has been here before.

He was managing the Chicago Cubs in 2014 when they were building a team that would end its century-long championship drought.

But just as that team was coming together for a four-year postseason run, Renteria's contract was terminated when the Cubs had a chance to bring in free-agent manager Joe Maddon.

Now 58, Renteria landed with the White Sox and replaced Robin Ventura as manager just as the team began its own massive rebuilding project. Now in his fourth season on the South Side, Renteria's patience is finally getting rewarded.

Expectations are high for the White Sox for the first time in a decade, and Renteria is ready for it.

"I'm very happy right now," Renteria said Thursday at Camelback Ranch. "The task is not complete but there is satisfaction.

"It's like seeing your kids grow up, there are a lot of ups and downs that go along with it, some tears, some great laughter and some great harmony and joy."

Renteria's personality can be stern at times, such as when players have been benched for not hustling, but the warmer side usually wins out in the long run.

Tim Anderson will always remember conversations with Renteria three years ago after the shortstop's close friend was killed in Alabama.

"He helped to me to become a better person," Anderson said. "He helped me through a lot of my dark moments, just being able to talk to somebody, tell him whatever's on my mind. His door is open. Having a manager like that makes it easy to come to work."

Anderson led the major leagues in batting average (.335) last season, a huge step forward from a .240 season in 2018. That was satisfying to Renteria, who is still pushing Anderson to improve his defense where he led the majors in errors last season.

See **RENTERIA**, page B3

'Championship fight'

Ron DeKett / HP correspondent

Michigan Lutheran's Maria Rush (15) looks for room to pass the ball as Emma Springer (20) and Macey Springer (12) defend for River Valley during Thursday's game.

Michigan Lutheran girls beat River Valley, clinch share of BCS White title

By MAXWELL HARDEN
HP Sports Writer

ST. JOSEPH – The River Valley girls basketball team gave Michigan Lutheran all it could handle in the early goings of Thursday's Berrien-Cass-St. Joseph White Division tilt.

Michigan Lutheran 36 River Valley 20

The Titans shook off a slow start to defeat River Valley 36-20 on Thursday to clinch at least a share of their fifth straight BCS White title.

"We knew it was for a championship fight," Michigan Lutheran coach Ron Briney said. "I was very pleased with our defense. We were inconsistent on offense but we busted loose a few times with our defensive and offensive capabilities. That was enough for us to get a win against a quality team tonight."

Michigan Lutheran's 36 points were its lowest point total in a win this season and its second lowest overall, the lowest being 34 points in a 54-34 loss to New Buffalo on Feb. 7.

Rebekah Hisle, Abby Harris, and Jessi Jewell scored eight points apiece for the Titans, while Taylor Volstorf led the Mustangs with six.

The Mustangs (9-4 BCS White, 11-7) were able to disrupt the Titans' flow of offense in the first quarter, holding them to a Jessi Jewell 3-pointer while taking a 5-3 lead into the second quarter.

From there, it was all Michigan Lutheran (12-1, 16-1).

The Titans' press defense forced turnovers that led to easy baskets on offense. When shots weren't falling, the Titans crashed the boards for offensive rebounds that led to second-chance points. The Mustangs had open looks around the basket that they weren't able to convert.

See **TITANS**, page B2

Kipnis chasing Cubs' second base job, mentoring Hoerner

By BRIAN M. BERGNER JR.
Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Jason Kipnis joined the Chicago Cubs this spring for a shot at the second base job. He also realizes the role he plays in helping develop 22-year-old prospect Nico Hoerner.

"I think he's a stud. He's going to be one. He's a young guy with a lot of talent and I don't want to get in the way of him progressing in this game, or getting better," Kipnis said at spring training this week.

The two-time All-Star spent his entire nine-year career in Cleveland, amassing nearly 100 postseason at-bats, including the Indians run to the 2016 World Series when they lost in seven games to the Cubs.

Kipnis, who signed a minor league deal Feb. 11 that included an invitation to major league spring training, said he remembers coming up himself as a top prospect just trying to make his way.

"I've had good mentors, and bad ones. Ones that didn't help at all and made it even harder. I just know that's not how it should work," said Kipnis, from Northbrook, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

Kipnis, Hoerner, Daniel Descalso and David Bote were all lined up together taking ground balls at second base this week.

"We've got a whole crowd of guys at second base," Hoerner said with a smile. "And it's also people at different stages of their career,

See **KIPNIS**, page B3

IN BRIEF

Johnson new MSU offensive coordinator

EAST LANSING (AP) — Jay Johnson followed head coach Mel Tucker and fellow assistant Chris Kapilovic to Michigan State from Colorado, joining the Spartans on Thursday as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Johnson filled roles last season at Colorado under Tucker. The Spartans hired Tucker last week following Mark Dantonio's retirement. Tucker brought the 50-year-old Johnson with him to East Lansing along with offensive line coach and running game coordinator Kapilovic. Kapilovic's move was announced this week.

Former Michigan State player and assistant coach Harlon Barnett returned to direct the secondary after two seasons as Florida State's defensive coordinator.

Bears sign tight end Demetrius Harris to 1-year contract

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — The Chicago Bears signed tight end Demetrius Harris to a one-year contract Thursday.

The 6-foot-7 Harris has 72 receptions for 754 and nine touchdowns over six seasons with Kansas City (2014-18) and Cleveland (2019).

He caught 15 passes for 149 yards and three touchdowns this past season and was released by the Browns on Monday.

Chicago coach Matt Nagy was an assistant in Kansas City for four of Harris' six seasons there. The Chiefs won the Super Bowl this year.

The Bears got little production from their tight ends last season, missing the playoffs at 8-8 after going 12-4 to win the NFC North.

AIRWAVES

Television today

10:30 a.m. (Golf) **PGA Tour Golf** Puerto Rico Open, Second Round. (Live)
2:00 p.m. (Golf) **PGA Tour Golf** WGC - Mexico Championship, Second Round. (Live)
4:00 p.m. (FS1) **NASCAR Cup Series** Pennzoil 400, Practice. (Live) CC
5:00 p.m. (FS1) **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** Strat 200, Qualifying. (Live) CC
6:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Hockey** Notre Dame at Michigan. (Live) CC
7:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Buffalo at Kent State. (Live)
7:30 p.m. (FS1) **NASCAR Cup Series** Pennzoil 400, Final Practice. (Live) CC
8:00 p.m. (50) **AHL Hockey** Chicago Wolves at Milwaukee Admirals. (Live)
(ESPN) **NBA Basketball** Denver Nuggets at Oklahoma City Thunder. (Live)
(FoxDetroit) **NHL Hockey** Detroit Red Wings at New York Islanders. (Live)
8:30 p.m. (Bigten) **College Hockey** Minnesota at Penn State. (Live) CC
(NBCSCH) **NHL Hockey** Nashville Predators at Chicago Blackhawks. (Live) CC
9:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** VCU at St. Louis. (Live)
(FS1) **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** Strat 200. (Live) CC
10:30 p.m. (ESPN) **NBA Basketball** New Orleans Pelicans at Portland Trail Blazers. (Live)
11:00 p.m. (FS1) **NHRA Drag Racing** Arizona Nationals, Qualifying. (Live) CC

Saturday

7:25 a.m. (NBCSports) **Premier League Soccer** Chelsea FC vs Tottenham Hotspur FC. (Live)
9:30 a.m. (FS1) **Bundesliga Soccer** SV Werder Bremen vs Borussia Dortmund. (Live) CC
9:55 a.m. (NBCSports) **Premier League Soccer** Sheffield United vs. Brighton & Hove Albion. (Live)
12:00 p.m. (2) (3) (22) **College Basketball** Tennessee at Auburn. (Live) CC
(17) (22.2) (32) **College Basketball** Marquette at Providence. (Live)
(Bigten) **College Lacrosse** Yale at Penn State. (Live) CC
(ESPN) **College Basketball** Kansas at Baylor. (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Virginia at Pittsburgh. (Live)
(Golf) **PGA Tour Golf** WGC - Mexico Championship, Third Round. (Live)
12:30 p.m. (5) (8) (16) **Premier League Soccer** Leicester City FC vs Manchester City FC. (Live)
1:00 p.m. (FS1) **NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series** Boyd Gaming 300, Qualifying. (Live) CC
2:00 p.m. (2) (3) (22) **College Basketball** Texas at Kansas State. (Live) CC
(7) (13) (41) (57) **XFL Football** Houston Roughnecks at Tampa Bay Vipers. (Live)
(Bigten) **Women's College Basketball** Ohio State at Rutgers. (Live) CC
(ESPN) **College Basketball** Michigan at Purdue. (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Houston at Memphis. (Live)
2:30 p.m. (5) (8) (16) **PGA Tour Golf** WGC - Mexico Championship, Third Round. (Live) CC
(17) (22.2) (32) **College Basketball** Villanova at Xavier. (Live)
(FS1) **NASCAR Cup Series** Pennzoil 400, Qualifying. (Live) CC
(Golf) **PGA Tour Golf** Puerto Rico Open, Third Round. (Live)
4:00 p.m. (2) (3) (22) **College Basketball** UCLA at Colorado. (Live) CC
(Bigten) **College Hockey** Notre Dame at Michigan. (Live) CC
(ESPN) **College Basketball** North Carolina at Louisville. (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Oklahoma at Oklahoma State. (Live)
(FoxDetroit) **College Basketball** Georgia Tech at Syracuse. (Live)
(FS1) **NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series** Boyd Gaming 300. (Live) CC
4:30 p.m. (NBCSports) **College Basketball** Saint Joseph's at George Mason. (Live)
5:00 p.m. (17) (22.2) (32) **XFL Football** Dallas Renegades at Seattle Dragons. (Live)
6:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Basketball** Florida at Kentucky. (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** LSU at South Carolina. (Live)
6:30 p.m. (Bigten) **College Hockey** Minnesota at Penn State. (Live) CC
(NBCSports) **College Basketball** Richmond at St. Bonaventure. (Live)
7:30 p.m. (FS1) **Boxing** Deontay Wilder vs. Tyson Fury II - Undercard. (Live) CC
8:00 p.m. (ESPN) **Boxing** Deontay Wilder vs. Tyson Fury II - Undercard (Live)
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Virginia Tech at Duke. (Live)
(NBCSCH) **NBA Basketball** Phoenix Suns at Chicago Bulls. (Live)
8:30 p.m. (7) (13) (41) (57) **NBA Basketball** Philadelphia 76ers at Milwaukee Bucks. (Live) CC
(NBCSports) **Motocross Racing** Monster Energy Supercross: Arlington. (Live)
9:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Basketball** Oregon at Arizona. (Live)
(FS1) **College Basketball** Georgetown at DePaul. (Live) CC
10:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Gonzaga at BYU. (Live)

Radio today

7:15 p.m.
High school basketball — Michigan Lutheran at River Valley (WSJM-AM, 1400; WSJM-FM, 106.1)
High school basketball — South Haven at Allegan (WCSY-FM, 103.7)

Saturday

2 p.m.
College basketball — Michigan at Purdue (WSJM-AM, 1400; WSJM-FM, 106.1)
6 p.m.
High school basketball — Benton Harbor at River Rouge (WSJM-AM, 1400; WSJM-FM, 106.1)

CONTACT US

The Herald-Palladium sports desk is staffed after 7 p.m. nightly. Coaches or managers are asked to report results as soon as possible the evening of the event for publication in the next day's edition.

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Ron DeKett / HP correspondent
Michigan Lutheran's Mara Rugen (11) and Jessi Jewell (33) pressure River Valley's Emma Springer (20) as she tries to find an open teammate during Thursday's game.

TITANS

From page B1

"We didn't shoot the ball particularly well tonight," River Valley coach Jason Alexander said. "I thought our defense was really good at times. We gave up some backside layups that we can't do, but if we shore things up and make some baskets, we're right in the ball game.

"We're a much better shooting team than we showed tonight."

Michigan Lutheran led 13-7 at halftime and 23-10 after three quarters. The Titans led by as many as 20 when Jewell found a cutting Mara Rugen from the top of the key for a layup that made it 30-10 Titans midway through the fourth.

Winning five straight BCS White championships is no easy feat. Briney is proud of the way his team dedicates itself to details.

"This group of kids are great and they love to work hard. They truly enjoy each other's company. They've been a tremendous joy to coach. They've bought into the effort that it takes to be a champion."

The loss is River Valley's second straight after falling to BCS Red leader Brandywine 60-17 on Monday.

Ron DeKett / HP correspondent
River Valley's Lucia Rico (10) brings the ball downcourt as she is chased by Michigan Lutheran's Abby Harris (31) during Thursday's game.

Alexander hopes those two games can pay dividends when they host the Titans on March 4 in Division 4 district semifinal play.

"Losses stink, but we take them as learning lessons," Alexander said. "We have to go back to the film and commit ourselves to do the little things that get us over the hump. Playing teams of this caliber is going to push you to be better."

LUTHERAN 36, RIVER VALLEY 20

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN (36)
Rebekah Hisle 4 0-0 8, Abby Harris 4 0-0 8, Jessi Jewell 3 0-0 8, Mara Rugen 3 0-0 6, Maria Rush 1 0-0 2, Sophee Garcia 1 0-0 2, Hailey Conrad 1 0-0 2. Totals: 17 0-0 36.
RIVER VALLEY (20)
Taylor Volstorf 2 1-4 6, Hailey Hauch 2 0-0 4, Joanna Vert 2 0-0 4, Emma Springer 1 1-2 3, Alexis McCarty 1 0-0 2, Macey Springer 0 1-2 1. Totals: 8 3-8 20.

M Lutheran	**3**	**10**	**10**	**13**	**– 36**
River Valley	**5**	**2**	**3**	**10**	**– 20**

3-point goals – M Lutheran 2 (Jewell 2), River Valley 1 (Volstorf). Total fouls – River Valley 6, M Lutheran 6. Fouled out – none. Technical Fouls – none.
Records – Michigan Lutheran 12-1 BCS White, 16-1; River Valley 9-4 BCS White, 11-7.

Off to college

Photo provided
St. Joseph's Alyssa Krenek (left) and Kaitlyn Yack recently signed to play soccer at Lake Michigan College.

McIlroy roars out to a 2-shot lead in Mexico Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

MEXICO CITY — Rory McIlroy switched back to his old putter for the Mexico Championship and it made a world of difference. It helps that he's still hitting the ball like the No. 1 player in the world.

McIlroy ripped a 4-iron from 275 yards into the thin air at Chapultepec to 15 feet for eagle on his second hole Thursday, made five more birdies and opened the Mexico Championship with a 6-under 65 for a two-shot lead.

This is the only World Golf Championship that McIlroy hasn't won as he tries to join Dustin Johnson as the only players to win all four of them.

Justin Thomas and Bubba Watson were at 67.

Abraham Ancer of Mexico got some of the biggest cheers, especially when he ran off three straight birdies to overcome a rough start. He opened with a 70.

The course, at about 7,800 feet above sea level, is ideal for McIlroy the way he launched the ball.

But this was about his putting. He took only 26 putts and ranked No. 4 in the key putting statistic for the round.

He attributes that to his regular 34-inch putter. A week ago at Riviera, he tried a 35-inch putter to help get his shoulder and elbow in a better position. But he said it hurt with lining up the putts, and it cost him. McIlroy was tied for the 54-hole lead and shot 73 in the final round – including a triple bogey on the fifth hole – and tied for fifth

"It didn't quite work out the way I want it to, so I went back to the 34-inch," he said. "I just felt a little bit more comfortable today and was seeing my lines a little bit better. And yeah, it was a good day."

As for swing? Efficient as ever.

The best example of his advantage was the par-5 15th hole early in his round. U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland, who hits low-trajectory bullets, caught it a little high on the face of the club and it came out low with little spin. McIlroy launched a rocket and was 55 yards past him.

McIlroy hit 9-iron from 192 yards that set up a two-putt birdie. It was like that all day.

Johnson, who has gone a year without winning, opened with a 76, his highest opening round since the British Open at Carnoustie in 2018. His only birdie was on No. 1 after making the turn.

NFL owners approve negotiated terms for new labor agreement

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK — The NFL has put the labor ball in the players' hands.

In a somewhat surprisingly strong decision, the 32 team owners voted Thursday to "accept the negotiated terms on the principles of a new collective bargaining agreement."

Details of that agreement were not forthcoming from any of the owners or Commissioner Roger Goodell. They quickly scurried from a Manhattan hotel without nothing more than "sorry, can't help you," or "I can't comment" when asked about the proposed CBA.

Now the onus is on the players, who have a conference call Friday involving its executive committee and player representatives. The NFL Players Association said it would not comment Thursday on the NFL's announcement.

Such quick action by the owners indicates their eagerness to replace the 10-year labor agreement that concludes in March 2021. Several elements of a new CBA could be implemented for the upcoming season should the players vote in favor of it.

That, of course, is no given. Should the players vote against accepting this proposal or seek further negotiations, the NFL has said the current agreement would remain in place for 2020. A league statement put a deadline on acceptance by the union, saying "since the clubs and players need to have a system in place and know the rules that they will operate under by next week."

The league's business year begins March 18.

Among the items in that proposal, according to several people familiar with the negotiations but speaking anonymously because they are not authorized to release such information:

■ A 17-game schedule, which always has been a stumbling block in talks with the NFL Players Association. More roster spots per team would be a must for the players.

A 17th game would preferably be played at neutral sites, which one of the people familiar with the talks said could include non-NFL U.S. venues as well as Europe, Mexico and Brazil.

■ A reduction of the preseason, initially from four games to three.

■ A higher share of revenues for the players; the current number is 47 percent. The cut the players would receive is dependent on the length of the regular season, but would remain below 50 percent regardless.

■ An expansion of the playoffs, something the NFL has been seeking for years.

Commissioner Roger Goodell suggested back in 2015 that increasing the postseason field to seven teams in each conference was in the works. The owners could unilaterally add a wild-card team in the AFC and the NFC, but are willing to make such a move part of a new CBA.

The provisions for two more wild-card games, developed years ago, would have only the team with the best record in each conference receiving a bye for the first weekend of the playoffs.

There's even a chance one of those wild-card matchups would be played on a Monday night.

SCOREBOARD

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

TOP 10 TEAMS
Final Michigan Grappler team rankings

D1 – 1. Detroit Catholic Central, 2. Davison, 3. Brighton, 4. Hartland, 5. Temperance Bedford, 6. Holt, 7. Rockford, 8. Clarkston, 9. Westland John Glenn, 10. B.C. Lakeview.
D2 – 1. Lowell, 2. Gaylord, 3. DeWitt, 4. Eaton Rapids, 5. Warren Woods Tower, **6. LAKESHORE**, 7. Muskegon Reeths-Puffer, 8. Whitehall, 9. **NILES**, 10. New Boston Huron.
D3 – 1. Dundee, 2. Richmond, 3. Alma, 4. Montrose, 5. Lakewood, 6. Chippewa Hills, 7. Fremont, 8. Birch Run, 9. Shepherd, 10. Lakeville.
D 4 – 1.Clinton, 2. New Lothrop, 3. Hudson, 4. Manchester, 5. Hart, 6. Carson City, 7. Pine River, 8. Bronson, 9. Union City, 10. Springport.

TOP 10 INDIVIDUALS
After Districts
(Area wrestlers only)
Division 2

103 – 1. Nolan Wertanen, St. Joseph; 2. Mikey Robles, Niles.
112 – 8. Jamion Zimmerman, Niles; 9. Cameron Litaker, Lakeshore.
119 – 2. Aaron Lucio, Lakeshore.
125 – 4. Ryan Franco, Niles; 6. Jacob Halsey, St. Joseph.
130 – 4. Micah Hanau, Lakeshore.
135 – 2. Shane Williams, Lakeshore; 6. Javond Ball, Niles.
140 – 7. Jackson Hoover, Edwardsburg
215 – 8. Zeke Rohl, Lakeshore.

Division 3

103 – 4. Jordan Simpson, Dowagiac.
112 – 8. Trever Pelton, Watervliet; 9. Caeleb Ishmael, Coloma.
130 – 8. Ray Woodall, South Haven; 9. Jackson Kanniainen, Paw Paw; 10. Alex McIntosh, Dowagiac.
140 – 3. Hunter Heath, Brandywine; 6. William Bradley, Paw Paw.
152 – 7. Niko Martinez, Paw Paw; 8. Trevor, Winkel, South Haven.
189 – 10. Jackson Calvert, South Haven.
285 – 6. Cole Alsup, Coloma; 8. Wyatt Bailey, Dowagiac.

Division 4

103 – 9. Dustin Mallory, Lawton.
130 – 9. Romeo Lopez, Decatur.
140 – 3. Landyn VanWyk, Lawton.
152 – 10. Hunter Underwood, Gobles.
160 – 8. Aaron O'Donnell, Lawton.
171 – 4. Jared Checkley, Decatur; 8. Gage Collins, Cassopolis.

BOWLING

COLOMA LANES

THURS. IND. – Danny Gulliver 728 (267), Tom LoPresti 706 (245), Dave Scheuer 704 (277), Mike Moss 695 (258), Victor Clark 686 (265), Mike Darling 676 (236), Gary Gargano 670 (258), Kyle Genovese 668 (243), Trisha Aldrich 654 (246), Bobbi Genovese 609. Team score: Big C Lumber 3213 (1166).

AREA SCHEDULE

Today
Boys basketball

St. Joseph at Niles, 7
Mattawan at Lakeshore, 7
Parchment at Bridgman, 7:15
Dowagiac at Three Rivers, 7:15
South Haven at Allegan, 7:15
Comstock at Berrien Springs, 7:30
Brandywine at Buchanan, 7:30
Lake Michigan Catholic at New Buffalo, 7:30
Countryside at Lawrence, 7:30
Saugatuck at Watervliet, 7:30
Gobles at Coloma, 7:30
Hartford at Decatur, 7:30
Cassopolis at Eau Claire, 7:30
Howardsville Christian at Covert, 7:30
Bloomingdale at Marcellus, 7:30

Girls basketball

Howardsville Christian at Covert, 5:30
St. Joseph at Niles, 5:45
Mattawan at Lakeshore, 5:45
Parchment at Bridgman, 5:45
Dowagiac at Three Rivers, 6
South Haven at Allegan, 6
Hartford at Decatur, 6
Saugatuck at Watervliet, 6
Coloma at Gobles, 6
Bloomingdale at Marcellus, 6

Bowling

South Haven at Wolverine meet at Three Rivers (South Lanes), 11

Saturday
Wrestling
Individual regionals

Division 2 at Vicksburg
Division 3 at Constantine
Division 4 at Mendon

Boys basketball

Holland Calvary at Watervliet, 5
Benton Harbor at River Rouge, 6

Bowling

Niles, Brandywine at Allegan Baker Tourney, 11

Competitive cheer
Districts
Division 2

St. Joseph, Lakeshore at Thornapple Kellogg, 4

Division 3

Berrien Springs, Buchanan, Coloma, Dowagiac, South Haven at Paw Paw, 5

Division 4

Bloomingdale, Bronson, Hartford, Lake Michigan Catholic at Bronson, 10

College basketball

LMC women at Kalamazoo Valley CC, 1
LMC men at Kalamazoo Valley CC, 3

GIRLS BASKETBALL

BRANDYWINE 73, BUCHANAN 38

BUCHANAN (38)

Hailey Jonatzke 1 2-2 4, Claire Leitz 2 4-4 9, Emma Lozmack 1 0-0 2, Alea Fisher 3 0-2 7, Alexa Burns 1 0-0 2, Faith Carson 5 4-5 14. Totals: 13 10-13 38.

BRANDYWINE (73)

Zakiyyah Abdullah 7 4-4 22, Alysa Adamczyk 1 0-0 3, Malikiyyah Abdullah 4 0-1 9, Megan Schmidt 6 1-1 18, Kennedy Byrd 2 4-5 9, Alexis Rhodes 2 2-2 7, Cortney Bates 1 0-0 3, Haley Scott 1 0-0 2. Totals: 24 11-13 73.

Buchanan 9 17 4 8 — 38
Brandywine 11 15 19 28 — 73

3-point goals – Buchanan 2 (Leitz, Fisher), Brandywine 14 (Schmidt 5, Z. Abdullah 4, Adamczyk, M. Abdullah, Byrd, Rhodes, Bates). Total fouls – Brandywine 16, Buchanan 14. Fouled out – none. Technical fouls – none.
Records – Brandywine 8-0 BCS Red, 18-0; Buchanan 7-2, 13-5.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Thursday's boys scores

Allen Park Cabrini 61, Dearborn Heights Star International 48
Battle Creek Academy 84, Fruitport Calvary Christian 76
Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood 67, Auburn Hills Oakland Christian 44
Boyne Falls 54, Burt Lake Northern Michigan Christian Academy 33
Cadillac 65, Petoskey 59
Calumet 67, Westwood 57
Cassopolis 71, Mendon 47
Dearborn Divine Child 59, Detroit Denby 38
Edwardsburg 48, Vicksburg 38
Grand Rapids Wellspring 64, Grand Rapids Adventist 45
Kimball New Life Christian 47, Merritt Academy 39
Lake Leelanau St. Mary 69, Grand Traverse Academy 44
Marquette 61, Negaunee 54
Traverse City Central 70, Gaylord 48
Traverse City West 47, Alpena 46
Ypsilanti Arbor Preparatory 70, Livonia Clarenceville 37
MAC Tournament
Non-Qualifier Round
Fair Haven-Anchor Bay 46, Sterling Heights 45
Madison Heights Madison 61, Center Line 47
Marysville 56, Hazel Park 53, OT
Red/White Division Quarterfinal
Grosse Pointe South 64, Clinton Township Chippewa Valley 56
Macomb Dakota 76, Romeo 53
Roseville 51, New Haven 43
Silver/Bronze Division Quarterfinal
Eastpointe East Detroit 82, Clawson 49
Fraser 49, Utica 39
Marine City 59, Clinton Township Clintondale 38
Warren Lincoln 68, Madison Heights Lamphere 63
Warren Woods Tower 64, St. Clair Shores Lake Shore 62

Thursday's girls scores

Athens 33, Colon 28
Auburn Hills Avondale 60, Oxford 47
Bad Axe 29, Vassar 21
Bellaire 60, Pellston 6
Bloomfield Hills 41, Royal Oak 38
Brighton 66, Salem 24
Brooklyn Columbia Central 53, Hudson 14
Buckley 54, Suttons Bay 44
Burr Oak 41, Tekonsha 29
Camden-Frontier 55, Jackson Christian 38
Carney-Nadeau 67, Bark River-Harris 47
Caro 54, Reese 22
Carson City-Crystal 34, Ashley 22
Cedarville 66, Pickford 59
Central Lake 43, Mancelona 28
Chassell 54, Watersmeet 39
Clarkston 60, Birmingham Groves 42
Clarkston Everest Collegiate 56, Austin Catholic 35
DeTour 40, Newberry 36
Dryden 56, Genesee 39
Dundee 61, Hillsdale 30
Edwardsburg 62, Vicksburg 37
Engadine 58, Brimley 37
Erie-Mason 42, Onsted 39
Escanaba 72, Ishpeming 50
Ewen-Trout Creek 63, Painesdale Jeffers 31
Fairview 36, Whittemore-Prescott 35
Farwell 54, Beaverton 44
Fife Lake Forest Area 52, Indian River-Inland Lakes 29
Flat Rock 60, Milan 44
Frankfort 50, Onekama 42
Gladstone 43, Gwinn 27
Gladwin 51, Pinconning 38
Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy 50, West Bloomfield 43
Harrison 57, Clare 48
Hillman 33, Rogers City 27
Ida 41, Blissfield 25
Kingsley 54, Benzie Central 28
Kingston 57, Peck 36
Lake City 40, McBain 29
Lake Linden-Hubbell 31, Dollar Bay 24
Lake Orion 47, Troy Athens 39
Lansing Christian 61, Ann Arbor Central Academy 25
Leroy Pine River 42, Roscommon 24
Macomb Lutheran North 56, Marine City Cardinal Mooney 32
Manton 54, Houghton Lake 37
Maple City Glen Lake 52, Leland 27
Marquette 70, Houghton 41
Menominee 65, Stephenson 17
Merrill 40, Coleman 38
Mesick 42, Marion 41
Michigan Center 58, East Jackson 18
Mio-Au Sable 44, AuGres-Sims 23
Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central 51, New Boston Huron 24
Montague 49, Hart 46, 3OT
Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart 50, Blanchard Montabella 19
Muskegon Reeths-Puffer 62, Fruitport 31
Napoleon 46, Hanover-Horton 30
Niles Brandywine 73, Buchanan 38
North Central 46, Rapid River 38
Onaway 45, Johannesburg-Lewiston 37
Oscoda 67, Hale 19
Ottawa Lake Whiteford 52, Morenci 43
Pentwater 44, Mason County Eastern 32
Petersburg Summerfield 45, Clinton 20
Pittsford 44, Hillsdale Academy 43
Riverview 56, Monroe Jefferson 8
Rochester 41, Farmington 40
Sandusky 42, Marlette 36
Sault Ste Marie 55, Cheboygan 14
Shelby 42, Ravenna 29
Shepherd 44, Sanford-Meridian 36
St. Ignace LaSalle 69, Rudyard 25
St. Joseph Michigan Lutheran 36, Three Oaks River Valley 20
Tawas 43, West Branch Ogemaw Heights 30
Taylor Prep 47, Detroit University Science 43
Troy 59, Rochester Adams 51
Ubly 50, Brown City 24
Unionville-Sebewaing 42, Elkton-Pigeon Bay Port Laker 34
Wakefield-Marenisco 78, Republic-Michigamme 35
Walkerville 47, Manistee Catholic Central 37

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	40	15	.727	—
Boston	38	16	.704	1½
Phila.	35	21	.625	5½
Brooklyn	25	29	.463	14½
New York	17	38	.309	23

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	35	20	.636	—
Orlando	24	31	.436	11
Washington	20	33	.377	14
Charlotte	19	36	.345	16
Atlanta	16	41	.281	20

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	47	8	.855	—
Indiana	32	23	.582	15
Chicago	19	37	.339	28½
Detroit	19	39	.328	29½
Cleveland	14	40	.259	32½

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	34	20	.630	—
Dallas	33	22	.600	1½
Memphis	28	26	.519	6
San Antonio	23	31	.426	11
New Orleans	23	32	.418	11½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	38	17	.691	—
Utah	36	18	.667	1½
Oklahoma City	33	22	.600	5
Portland	25	31	.446	13½
Minnesota	16	37	.302	21

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	41	12	.774	—
L.A. Clippers	37	18	.673	5
Phoenix	22	33	.400	20
Sacramento	21	33	.389	20½
Golden State	12	43	.218	30

Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled.

Thursday's Games

Milwaukee 126, Detroit 106
Atlanta 129, Miami 124
Charlotte 103, Chicago 93
Phila. 112, Brooklyn 104, OT
Memphis at Sacramento
Houston at Golden State

Today's Games

Cleveland at Washington, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Indiana at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Denver at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Utah, 9 p.m.
Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE 103, CHICAGO 93

CHARLOTTE (103)

Bridges 9-23 2-2 22, Washington 6-11 4-5 17, Zeller 5-5 6-8 16, Graham 0-7 0-0 0, Rozier 5-8 1-1 14, Biyombo 1-3 1-2 3, McDaniels 0-0 2-2 2, Co.Martin 2-4 0-0 4, Monk 7-13 9-9 25. Totals 35-74 25-29 103.

CHICAGO (93)

Satoransky 4-9 2-3 12, Young 10-18 0-0 22, Kornet 2-4 0-0 5, Arcidiacono 1-6 0-0 3, LaVine 8-22 2-5 19, Harrison 6-12 1-2 13, Felicio 1-2 0-0 2, Gafford 2-3 1-2 5, White 3-11 6-7 12. Totals 37-87 12-19 93.

Charlotte 33 27 19 24 — 103
Chicago 20 24 29 20 — 93

3-Point Goals—Charlotte 8-28 (Rozier 3-5, Monk 2-5, Bridges 2-8, Washington 1-3, Co.Martin 0-2, Graham 0-5), Chicago 7-31 (Young 2-3, Satoransky 2-5, Kornet 1-3, Arcidiacono 1-5, LaVine 1-7, Harrison 0-3, White 0-5). Fouled Out—Charlotte None, Chicago 1 (Gafford). Rebounds—Charlotte 44 (Bridges, Zeller 8), Chicago 38 (Young 11). Assists—Charlotte 22 (Graham 7), Chicago 24 (Satoransky 8). Total Fouls—Charlotte 16, Chicago 23. A—17,463 (20,917)

MILWAUKEE 126, DETROIT 106

MILWAUKEE (126)

G.Antetokounmpo 13-23 7-11 33, Middleton 11-18 2-2 28, B.Lopez 4-9 9-10 18, Bledsoe 8-14 1-1 19, Matthews 2-5 0-0 5, Connaughton 0-3 0-0 0, Ilyasova 0-0 0-0 0, S.Brown 0-2 0-0 0, Williams 0-2 0-0 0, Wilson 1-2 0-0 2, R.Lopez 4-9 0-0 9, DiVincenzo 3-4 1-1 8, Hill 1-2 2-2 4. Totals 47-93 22-27 126.

DETROIT (106)

Doumbouya 3-8 0-2 8, Snell 4-6 1-1 10, Maker 4-8 0-0 11, Mykhailiuk 3-9 0-0 7, Rose 6-15 0-0 12, Wood 4-10 9-10 18, Henson 3-5 0-0 6, B.Brown 7-10 1-1 16, Bone 2-3 0-0 6, Galloway 4-6 2-2 12, Knight 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 40-83 13-16 106.

Milwaukee 32 38 28 28 — 126
Detroit 18 23 30 35 — 106

3-Point Goals—Milwaukee 10-33 (Middleton 4-5, Bledsoe 2-5, DiVincenzo 1-2, Matthews 1-3, R.Lopez 1-4, B.Lopez 1-5, S.Brown 0-2, Williams 0-2, G.Antetokounmpo 0-3), Detroit 13-37 (Maker 3-5, Bone 2-2, Galloway 2-3, Doumbouya 2-7, B.Brown 1-2, Snell 1-2, Mykhailiuk 1-5, Wood 1-5, Knight 0-3, Rose 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 41 (G.Antetokounmpo 16), Detroit 46 (Wood 11). Assists—Milwaukee 24 (Bledsoe 6), Detroit 25 (B.Brown 7). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 15, Detroit 23. A—16,097 (20,491)

GOLF

WGC-Mexico Championship
Thursday
Chapultepec Golf Course
Mexico City, Mexico
Purse: $10.5 million

Yardage:7,345; par 71 (35-36)
First Round

Rory McIlroy	32-33—65	-6
Bubba Watson	33-34—67	-4
Justin Thomas	33-34—67	-4
Louis Oosthuizen	35-33—68	-3
Billy Horschel	34-34—68	-3
Corey Conners	33-35—68	-3
Bryson DeChambeau	33-35—68	-3
Tyrrell Hatton	33-36—68	-2
Paul Casey	32-37—68	-2
Patrick Reed	35-34—68	-2
Sungjae Im	32-37—68	-2
Lee Westwood	34-35—68	-2
Hideki Matsuyama	34-35—68	-2
Abraham Ancer	35-35—70	-1
Tommy Fleetwood	33-37—70	-1
Gary Woodland	37-33—70	-1
Bernd Wiesberger	34-36—70	-1
Erik van Rooyen	31-39—70	-1
Lucas Glover	33-38—71	E
Rafa Cabrera Bello	36-35—71	E
Pablo Larrazabal	35-36—71	E
Branden Grace	34-37—71	E
Chez Reavie	34-37—71	E
Zach Murray	34-37—71	E
Justin Harding	36-35—71	E
Kevin Na	35-36—71	E
Sebastián Muñoz	36-35—71	E
Matthias Schwab	35-36—71	E
Scott Hend	37-35—72	+1
Ryan Fox	35-37—72	+1
Xander Schauffele	36-36—72	+1
Brendon Todd	35-37—72	+1
Francesco Molinari	36-36—72	+1
Lanto Griffin	35-37—72	+1
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	36-36—72	+1
Collin Morikawa	36-36—72	+1
Matthew Fitzpatrick	39-33—72	+1
Webb Simpson	36-36—72	+1
Jon Rahm	38-34—72	+1
Shane Lowry	36-36—72	+1
Jazz Janewattananond	37-36—73	+2
Cameron Smith	39-34—73	+2
Kevin Kisner	35-38—73	+2
Benjamin Hebert	36-37—73	+2
Scottie Scheffler	36-37—73	+2
Danny Willett	37-36—73	+2
Jason Kokrak	37-36—73	+2
Zander Lombard	35-38—73	+2
Matt Wallace	37-37—74	+3
Sergio Garcia	36-38—74	+3
Marc Leishman	36-38—74	+3
Adam Scott	34-40—74	+3
Jordan Spieth	38-36—74	+3
Shugo Imahira	36-38—74	+3
Byeong Hun An	37-38—75	+4
Shaun Norris	35-40—75	+4
Matt Kuchar	38-37—75	+4
Marcus Kinhult	36-39—75	+4
Lucas Herbert	38-37—75	+4
Charles Howell III	38-37—75	+4
Carlos Ortiz	40-35—75	+4
Dustin Johnson	37-39—76	+5
Graeme McDowell	41-35—76	+5
Kurt Kitayama	35-41—76	+5
Robert MacIntyre	40-36—76	+5
Michael Lorenzo-Vera	37-39—76	+5
Brandt Snedeker	36-40—76	+5
Sung Kang	38-38—76	+5
Jorge Campillo	35-42—77	+6
Ryo Ishikawa	43-37—80	+9
Tae Hee Lee	43-37—80	+9
Victor Perez	42-39—81	+10

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Standings through Thursday games

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Louisville	13	3	.813	22	5	.815
Duke	12	3	.800	22	4	.846
Florida St.	12	3	.800	22	4	.846
Virginia	10	5	.667	18	7	.720
NC State	8	7	.533	17	9	.654
Notre Dame	7	8	.467	16	10	.615
Syracuse	7	8	.467	14	12	.538
Clemson	7	8	.467	13	12	.520
Georgia Tech	7	8	.467	13	13	.500
Boston College	7	9	.438	13	14	.481
Virginia Tech	6	9	.400	15	11	.577
Pittsburgh	6	10	.375	15	12	.556
Miami	6	10	.375	14	12	.538
Wake Forest	4	12	.250	11	15	.423
North Carolina	3	12	.200	10	16	.385

Saturday's Games

Virginia at Pittsburgh, Noon
North Carolina at Louisville, 4 p.m.
Florida St. at NC State, 4 p.m.
Georgia Tech at Syracuse, 4 p.m.
Clemson at Boston College, 6 p.m.
Virginia Tech at Duke, 8 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Miami at Notre Dame, 6 p.m.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Maryland	12	3	.800	22	4	.846
Penn St.	10	5	.667	20	6	.769
Iowa	10	6	.625	19	8	.704
Michigan St.	10	6	.625	18	9	.667
Illinois	9	6	.600	17	9	.654
Wisconsin	9	6	.600	16	10	.615
Rutgers	9	7	.563	18	9	.667
Michigan	8	7	.533	17	9	.654
Indiana	7	8	.467	17	9	.654
Ohio St.	7	8	.467	17	9	.654
Purdue	7	9	.438	14	13	.519
Minnesota	6	9	.400	12	13	.480
Nebraska	2	13	.133	7	19	.269
Northwestern	1	14	.067	6	19	.240

Thursday's Games

Iowa 85, Ohio St. 76
Michigan St. 86, Nebraska 65

Saturday's Games

Michigan at Purdue, 2 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Penn St. at Indiana, Noon
Rutgers at Wisconsin, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Northwestern, 3 p.m.
Maryland at Ohio St., 4 p.m.

MICHIGAN ST. 86, NEBRASKA 65

MICHIGAN ST. (18-9)

Hall 0-1 0-2 0, Henry 5-10 2-4 13, Tillman 5-6 0-0 10, Hoiberg 2-3 0-0 4, Winston 7-11 6-6 23, Ahrens 5-9 0-0 14, Brown 6-9 0-0 17, Watts 1-8 1-2 3, Kithier 1-1 0-0 2, Loyer 0-1 0-0 0, Bingham 0-2 0-0 0, George 0-1 0-0 0, Marble 0-0 0-0 0, Izzo 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-62 9-14 86.

NEBRASKA (7-19)

Ouedraogo 4-6 2-3 10, Cheatham 4-9 5-6 14, Green 3-8 0-0 8, Mack 1-8 0-0 2, Thorbjarnarson 2-11 1-1 5, D.Burke 7-15 3-4 21, Cross 1-6 0-0 3, Easley 1-3 0-0 2, Arop 0-0 0-2 0. Totals 23-66 11-16 65.

Halftime—Michigan St. 39-36. 3-Point Goals—Michigan St. 13-27 (Brown 5-8, Ahrens 4-6, Winston 3-4, Henry 1-4, Hoiberg 0-1, Tillman 0-1, Watts 0-3), Nebraska 8-32 (D.Burke 4-8, Green 2-6, Cheatham 1-4, Cross 1-5, Easley 0-2, Mack 0-2, Thorbjarnarson 0-5). Fouled Out—Green. Rebounds—Michigan St. 47 (Tillman 11), Nebraska 24 (Ouedraogo 7). Assists—Michigan St. 20 (Winston 6), Nebraska 15 (Mack 6). Total Fouls—Michigan St. 15, Nebraska 15. A—15,838 (15,147).

NHL

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Rangers 6, Chicago 3
Dallas 3, Arizona 2
Boston 2, Edmonton 1, OT
Florida 4, Anaheim 1
Colorado 3, N.Y. Islanders 1
Minnesota 4, Vancouver 3, SO

Thursday's Games

Toronto 4, Pittsburgh 0
Montreal 4, Washington 3, OT
New Jersey 2, San Jose 1
Philadelphia 4, Columbus 3, OT
Winnipeg 5, Ottawa 1
St. Louis 1, Arizona 0
Tampa Bay at Vegas
Florida at Los Angeles

Today's Games

N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit vs. N.Y. Islanders at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Boston at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Antetokounmpo scores 33, leads Bucks to rout of Pistons

DETROIT (AP) — Like many NBA coaches, Mike Budenholzer was worried about his Milwaukee Bucks needing a game or two to get back up to speed after the All-Star break.

It wasn't a concern for long Thursday night.

The Bucks had 70 points by halftime on their way to a 126-106 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

"That was a really impressive first half and I thought we did a lot of good things in the second half, too," Budenholzer said. "Our energy had been good the last two days, but that doesn't always equate to good play. There were a lot of positives for the first game after the break."

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 16 rebounds as the Bucks led by as many as 34 points in the second half. Detroit trailed 70-41 at halftime and could never get enough stops to mount any significant rally in the final two quarters.

"We came out and played our game and played with pace and aggression," said former Piston Khris Middleton, who scored 28 points. "That's how we have to play the rest of the way."

Eric Bledsoe added 19 points for the Bucks, who won for the 15th time in 17 games. Brook Lopez scored 18.

The Pistons have lost five straight since trading Andre Drummond to the Cleveland Cavaliers on Feb. 6 and were playing for the first time since buying out Reggie Jackson's contract.

"With a young team, it takes getting smacked upside the head a few times to wake them up a little bit," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "Tonight showed everyone how far we still have to go when it comes to building our roster and developing our young players."

Christian Wood, one of seven players in the game who has played for both teams, had 18 points and 11 rebounds. Bruce Brown finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

'"Those guys are like family, but once we touch the court, it is for blood," Wood said. "I'm going to go right at Giannis and he's going to go right at me."

The game was lopsided early, with the Bucks leading by 14 at the end of the first quarter and 29 at the half. Detroit's 41 first-half points were only two more than Middleton (20) and Antetokounmpo (19) had on their own.

"It was big to come off the break and play good basketball and be up by almost 30 at the half," Antetokounmpo said. "We picked up right where we left off."

Milwaukee also had a 14-0 advantage in points off turnovers, many coming after Pistons drove into the lane before throwing away an attempted kick-out.

"That's the No. 1 team in the league when it comes to protecting the paint, so you have to have a plan before you get in there," Casey said. "They have such unbelievable length that once you get in there, everything closes up in a hurry. You either have to get to the rim or know where you are passing the ball."

Bulls can't complete rally in Hornets loss

CHICAGO (AP) — Malik Monk scored 25 points, Miles Bridges added 22 and the Charlotte Hornets hung on to beat the cold-shooting Chicago Bulls 103-93 on Thursday night.

After the NBA put on a memorable show last weekend with the All-Star festivities in Chicago for the first time since 1988, the Hornets and Bulls delivered a rather forgettable performance.

The Hornets let a 21-point lead in the third quarter shrink to two. But they regrouped to win their third in a row after losing five straight and 13 of 14.

The Bulls missed their first 17 3-pointers before Zach LaVine made one in the third quarter and 7 of 31 from beyond the arc in losing their seventh straight game.

P.J. Washington scored 17 points for Charlotte. Cody Zeller added 16 points and eight rebounds. Bridges also grabbed eight rebounds after taking MVP honors in the Rising Stars Challenge at the United Center during All-Star weekend.

Thaddeus Young led Chicago with season highs of 22 points and 11 rebounds. LaVine scored 19 points.

TIP-INS

Hornets: G Dwayne Bacon scored 51 points Wednesday for the Greensboro Swarm in his first game after being assigned to the G League.

"The G League has been really good to us. We've gained a lot of experience and a lot of confidence with our guys that go to Greensboro, and this is a great example of that," Hornets coach James Borrego said.

Bulls: C Daniel Gafford (dislocated right thumb, sprained right ankle), playing for just the second time since Jan. 15, finished with five points and four rebounds.

SPARTANS

From page B1

now is the time for them to get some wins to enhance their seeding for the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments. Each of their final four regular-season opponents is ranked this week.

Nebraska: The Huskers, who haven't won since Jan. 7, once again hung with their opponent for a half before wearing down over the final 20 minutes. It's not a question of effort. It's a matter of the Huskers being undermanned and undersized.

JACK HOIBERG STARTS

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo gave Jack Hoiberg his first start, a nod to the walk-on guard playing in Lincoln, with his dad, Fred, on the opposite bench coaching the Cornhuskers. Jack took Rocket Watts' spot in the lineup. Watts entered just over two minutes into the game. Hoiberg returned with 2:59 left in the game and finished with four points, two assists and one rebound in five minutes.

UP NEXT

Michigan State hosts Iowa on Tuesday in the only regular-season meeting of the teams.

Nebraska visits Illinois on Monday, the only regular-season game between the teams.

RENTERIA

From page B1

All-Star pitcher Lucas Giolito was going through a particularly difficult stretch in a 2018 season. He had the highest ERA in baseball (6.13) among qualified pitchers. But Renteria had his back.

"I had two or three starts in a row where I didn't make it out of the early innings," Giolito said. "We get into a hotel late one night and I happened to be in the same elevator as Ricky and he just grabs me behind the head and whispers to me, 'You're going to be an All-Star.'

"I'm thinking, I got a lot of work to do. But he's looking me in the eyes and saying that to me as I'm sitting on a 6-plus ERA."

Giolito turned it around last year, making Renteria's prediction come true with a 3.41 ERA while striking out nearly twice as many batters as the previous season and cutting the amount of walks.

"That meant a lot to me at the time and it means a lot to me now," Giolito said. "He had that confidence in me when I didn't even have it. That's our manager."

As Renteria said, there still is work to do. The White Sox were 72-89 last season, 28 1-2 games behind AL Central champion Minnesota.

But with the continued development of young stars, plus the additions of marquee free agents such as Yasmani Grandal, Edwin Encarnacion and Dallas Keuchel, the future looks very bright.

And this time, it looks like Renteria will be around to enjoy the good times.

"Even though it's been hard over the last few years, you always have to keep the big picture in mind. I know that we're in a better place at this moment," Renteria said.

"We are hoping to fulfill the promise that lies before us."

KIPNIS

From page B1

guy that's played at a high level for a long time."

First-year manager David Ross said there's no secret, second base is definitely up for grabs, but he doesn't subscribe to anyone having an advantage or disadvantage at this point of camp.

"I'm trying to come into camp and really give these guys a fresh set of eyes," Ross said. "Nobody comes in with advantages or disadvantages unless you've got some proven hardware out there and some real numbers on the back of your baseball card."

When asked if there is a front runner, Ross again reiterated about giving everyone a fresh set of eyes.

"I'll let them prove to me who deserves that spot. And I'm not talking about stats, I'm talking about how they go about their business, who they are in the clubhouse. There's a lot of factors that go into that," Ross said.

Ross said there's a lot of versatility within the Cubs group, something they'll need in 2020.

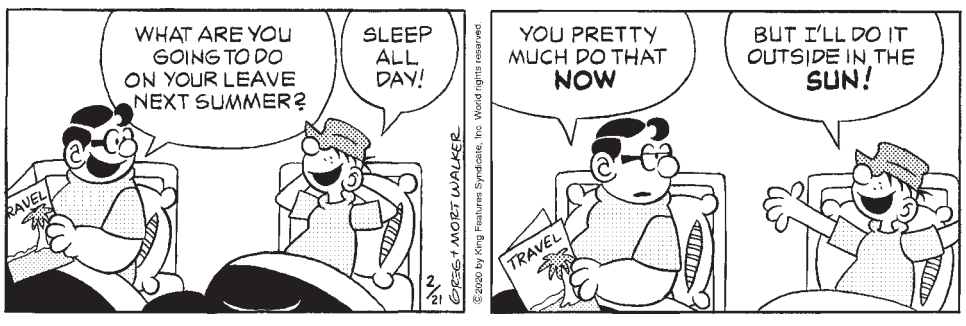
"It's not like we can go into the season with just one shortstop (Baez), one third baseman (Bryant) and one first baseman (Rizzo)," Ross said. "Those guys are studs, and their resume speaks for themselves, but there also has to be a lot of depth and guys that move around."

Descalso, 33, said everyone is trying to "get our work in" while preparing for the first games of spring and the 2020 season.

"A lot of guys were joking like, 'Tryouts at second base today.' We're having fun with it," Descalso said with a laugh, adding Hoerner handled himself well last September.

"Not every young kid is ready for that and I thought he handled it well," Descalso said. "He's trying to learn a new position at second base and I'm just trying to help him out with whatever he needs."

BEETLE BAILEY


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ON YOUR LEAVE NEXT SUMMER?
SLEEP ALL DAY!
TRAVEL
2/21
GREG + MORT WALKER
YOU PRETTY MUCH DO THAT NOW
BUT I'LL DO IT OUTSIDE IN THE SUN!
TRAVEL
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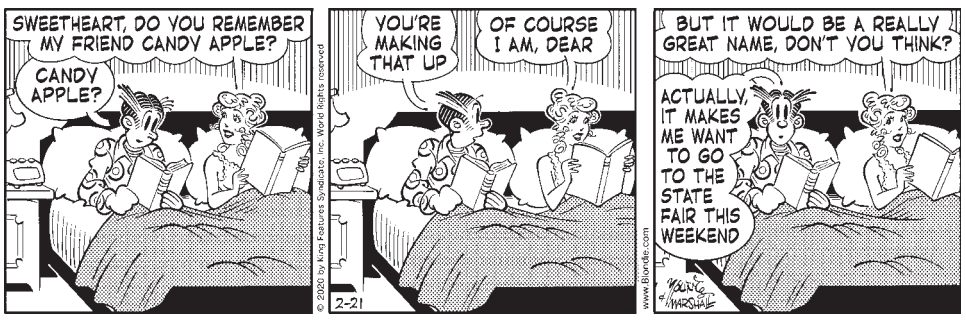
BLONDIE


SWEETHEART, DO YOU REMEMBER MY FRIEND CANDY APPLE?
CANDY APPLE?
YOU'RE MAKING THAT UP
OF COURSE I AM, DEAR
BUT IT WOULD BE A REALLY GREAT NAME, DON'T YOU THINK?
ACTUALLY, IT MAKES ME WANT TO GO TO THE STATE FAIR THIS WEEKEND
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2-21
www.Blondie.com

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

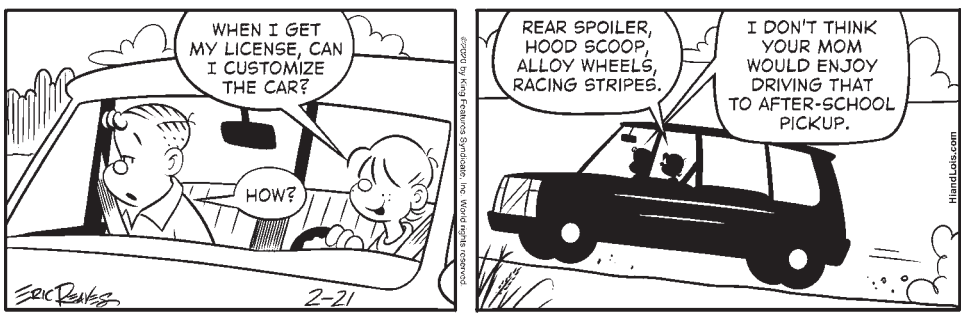
By Bil Keane

"I think I'm good at learning but bad at remembering."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"DID THE E-MAILMAN HAVE ANYTHING FOR ME?"

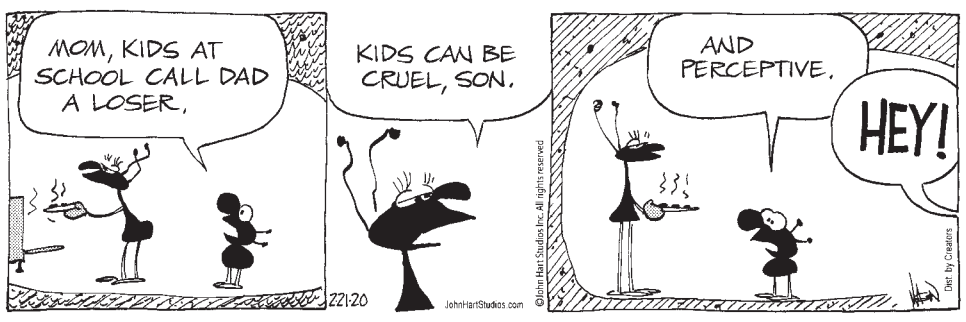
HI & LOIS


WHEN I GET MY LICENSE, CAN I CUSTOMIZE THE CAR?
HOW?
ERIC REYNOLDS
2-21
REAR SPOILER, HOOD SCOOP, ALLOY WHEELS, RACING STRIPES.
I DON'T THINK YOUR MOM WOULD ENJOY DRIVING THAT TO AFTER-SCHOOL PICKUP.
HiandLois.com

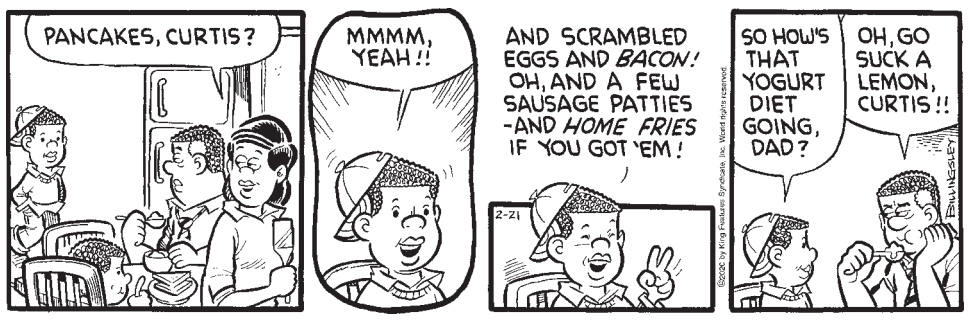
BABY BLUES

I JUST POSTED THIS NEW SOUND CLIP ON MY CHANNEL!
EXCITING!
babyblues.com
IS THAT ME SINGING IN THE SHOWER?
YEAH, I THOUGHT IT WAS CUTE. NOW YOU'RE FAMOUS.
TAYLOR SWIFT, EH, MacPHERSON?
NO COMMENT.

BC



CURTIS


PANCAKES, CURTIS?
MMMM, YEAH!!
AND SCRAMBLED EGGS AND BACON! OH, AND A FEW SAUSAGE PATTIES -AND HOME FRIES IF YOU GOT 'EM!
2-21
SO HOW'S THAT YOGURT DIET GOING, DAD?
OH, GO SUCK A LEMON, CURTIS!!
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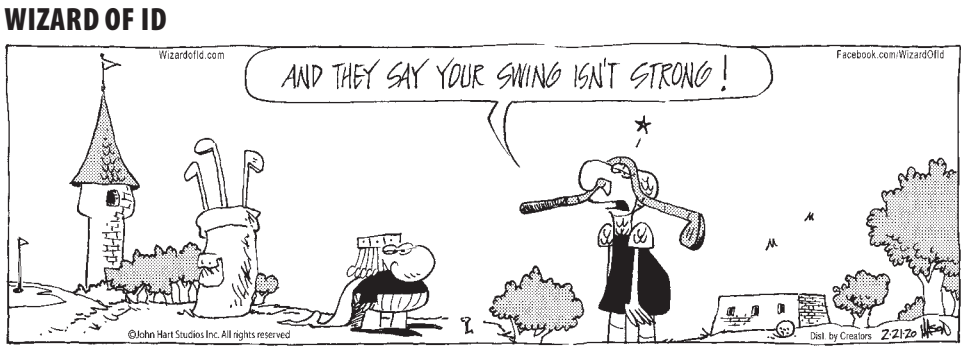
WIZARD OF ID


Wizardofid.com
AND THEY SAY YOUR SWING ISN'T STRONG!
Facebook.com/WizardOfId
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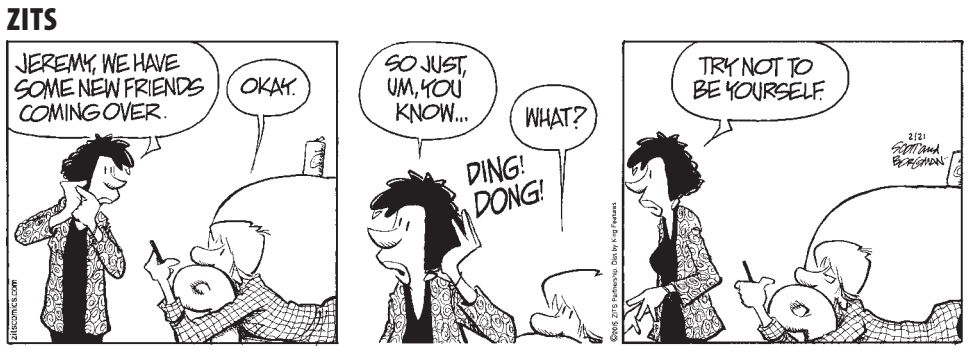
Dist. by Creators 2-21-20

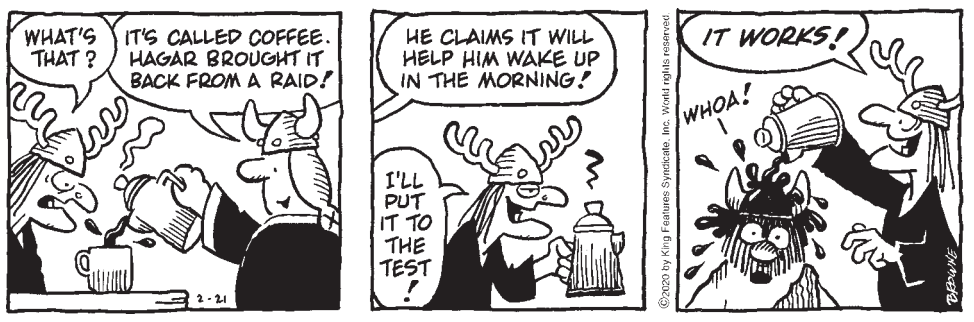
ZITS



DILBERT

ASOK, THE KEY TO HAPPINESS IS LOWERING YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
FOR EXAMPLE, ALL I EXPECT FROM WORK TODAY IS TWELVE CUPS OF COFFEE AND A HUMOROUS DISPLAY OF CORPORATE DYSFUNC-TION.
THAT SOUNDS SO SAD.
TRY EXPECTING EXCELLENCE AND SEE HOW THAT WORKS FOR YOU.
2-21-20 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE


WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S CALLED COFFEE. HAGAR BROUGHT IT BACK FROM A RAID!
HE CLAIMS IT WILL HELP HIM WAKE UP IN THE MORNING!
I'LL PUT IT TO THE TEST!
IT WORKS!
WHOA!
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GARFIELD

REMEMBER WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE LIZ WAS MY GIRLFRIEND?
© 2020 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved
A LOT LIKE THIS, EXCEPT NOW YOU USE MOUTHWASH
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 2-21

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

©2020 Grimmy, Inc. Distributed by King Features Inc. grimmy.com
MOTHER PECKERS
I'M NOT CALLING 911 JUST BECAUSE YOU ACCIDENTALLY ATE SOME OF ATTILA'S CAT FOOD
2/21

FORT KNOX

YOU DROVE MY NEW TESLA INTO A WALL??
I'M SORRY, GENERAL.
WHAT HAPPENED??
IT WAS IN "SELF DRIVING" MODE.
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU HIT THE BRAKE WHEN YOU SAW THE WALL??
BECAUSE I WAS SLEEPING IN THE BACKSEAT.
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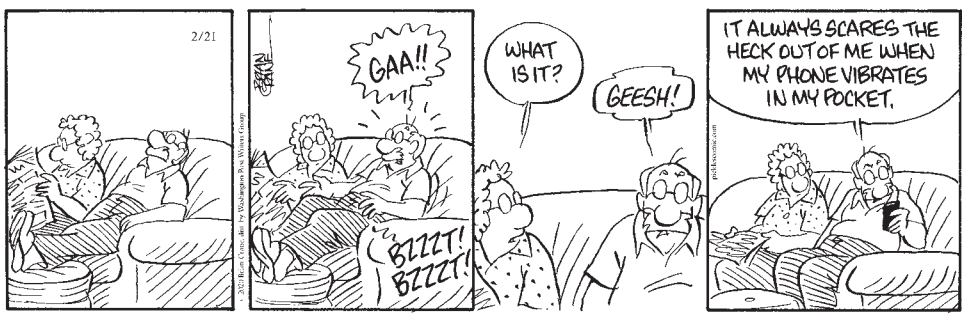
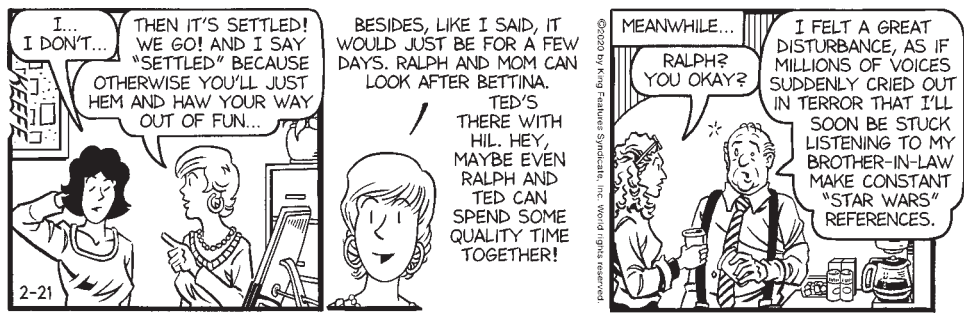
GoComics.com/FortKnox
2/21

MUTTS

PICKLES



SALLY FORTH


I... I DON'T...
THEN IT'S SETTLED! WE GO! AND I SAY "SETTLED" BECAUSE OTHERWISE YOU'LL JUST HEM AND HAW YOUR WAY OUT OF FUN...
2-21
BESIDES, LIKE I SAID, IT WOULD JUST BE FOR A FEW DAYS. RALPH AND MOM CAN LOOK AFTER BETTINA. TED'S THERE WITH HIL. HEY, MAYBE EVEN RALPH AND TED CAN SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME TOGETHER!
MEANWHILE...
RALPH? YOU OKAY?
I FELT A GREAT DISTURBANCE, AS IF MILLIONS OF VOICES SUDDENLY CRIED OUT IN TERROR THAT I'LL SOON BE STUCK LISTENING TO MY BROTHER-IN-LAW MAKE CONSTANT "STAR WARS" REFERENCES.
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PRIME TIME TV

FRIDAY EVENING FEB. 21

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	Fresh Off the Boat	Fresh Off the Boat	20/20 CC			
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	MacGyver (N) CC		Hawaii Five-0 (N) CC		Blue Bloods "Behind the Smile"	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	Lincoln Rhyme-Bone Collector		Dateline NBC (N) CC			
FOX 17 222 28 32	Modern Family	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (N) (L)				Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Overheard	Washington Week	Firing-Hoover	Country Music Country music stays true to its roots. CC (DVS)			
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Charmed The trio rush to Harry's aid.		Dynasty Liam gets a career opportunity.		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud (N)	AHL Hockey Chicago Wolves at Milwaukee Admirals. From UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena in Milwaukee. (N) (L)					
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	Charmed The trio rush to Harry's aid.		Dynasty Liam gets a career opportunity.		2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland Amy's client list has dwindled.		Highway to Heaven "The Gift of Life"		The List (N) CC	Celebrity Page (N)
WGN 9	News	black-ish	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	5:00 Live PD CC	:07 Live PD: Rewind (N) CC		Live PD "Live PD -- 02.21.20" (N) (L) CC			
AMC	The Book of Eli ('10)	Taken ('08, Action) Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen. CC				★★ A Walk Among the Tombstones ('14)	
Animal	Tanked	Tanked: Sea-Lebrity Edition (N)				Tanked CC	
BET	Creed	:05 ★★ Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself ('09) CC					
Big Ten	College Hockey	College Hockey Minnesota at Penn State. (N) CC					
Bravo	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	★★ Office Space ('99, Comedy) Ron Livingston. CC		
Cartoon	Teen Ti	Home	Burgers	Burgers	Rick	American	American
Cinemax	:35 ★★ Bad Times at the El Royale ('18, Suspense) Jeff Bridges, Cynthia Erivo. (P). CC					Strike Back Section 20 launches a raid.	
CMT	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
CNBC	Shark	Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	The Comedy Central Roast "Justin Bieber"			
Discovery	Gold Rush: Pay	Gold Rush (N) CC					
Disney	Zombies	Bunk'd	Owl Hse.	Bunk'd	Gabby	Coop	Sydney
DIY	Beach	Beachfrnt Reno		Beachfrnt Reno		Holmes	Holmes
E!	Friday	★★ Next Friday ('00) Ice Cube. CC				★ Friday After Next	
ESPN	NBA	NBA Basketball: Nuggets at Thunder					Basket
ESPN2	College Basketball			College Basketball VCU at St. Louis. (N)			
ESPNC	Football	College Football From Sept. 22, 2007.				College Football	
Food	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Wings	NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at New York Islanders.					Wings
Freefrm	6:00 Tarzan	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
FX	5:30 The Heat	★★ Bad Moms ('16, Comedy) Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell, Kathryn Hahn. CC				The Weekly	:32 The Weekly
Golf	Central	PGA Tour Golf WGC - Mexico Championship, Second Round.					
Hallmark	My One & Only ('19)	Valentine Ever After ('16, Romance) Autumn Reeser, Eric Johnson. CC				Christmas at Dollywood ('19) CC	
HBO	:45 ★★ Godzilla: King of the Monsters ('19, Science Fiction) Kyle Chandler, Vera Farmiga. CC					Real Time With Bill Maher CC	
History	Washing	Washington CC				:02 Washington	
HGTV	Love-List	Dream	Dream	Dream	Dream	Dream	Dream
Learning	90 Day	Dr. Pimple Popper		Feet-Killing Me		My 600-Lb. Life (N)	
Lifetime	:00 Supernanny	Supernanny "Supersized: Davis Family"		Supernanny "Tobek-Lawrence Family" (N)		:03 Supernanny "Ostler Family" CC	
MSNBC	Hardball	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Mckingjay	★★★ The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2 ('15) CC					
NBCSCH	Sports	Pregame	NHL Hockey: Predators at Blackhawks				
NFL	NFL Total	NFL 100 Greatest		NFL 100 Greatest		NFL 100 Greatest	
Nick	Maze	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sponge.	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Lockup	Lockup: Tulsa		Lockup: Oakland		Lockup: Oakland	
Oxygen	:00 Dateline: Secrets Uncovered "Angels & Demons" (N) CC			Snapped "Shanda Crain" CC		Snapped "Tracy Fortson" CC	
Parmt	6:00 ★★ Shooter ('07)			Bellator MMA Live (N) CC			
Showtime	The Parts You Lose	★★★ Trumbo ('15, Biography) Bryan Cranston, Helen Mirren. (P). CC				:05 ★★ The Upside ('17) CC	
Starz	Stockholm ('18)	★★★ American Gangster ('07, Crime Drama) Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe. (P). CC					:39 Outlander
STZENC	:08 ★★★ 9 to 5 ('80) Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin. CC			★★★ King Kong ('05) Naomi Watts. A beauty tames a savage beast. CC			
SyFy	★★ Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters ('13) Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton. CC				★★★ Edge of Tomorrow ('14) Tom Cruise. CC		
TBS	:00 ★★ San Andreas ('15, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino. CC (DVS)				★★★ Guardians of the Galaxy ('14) Chris Pratt.		
TCM	Children's Hr.	★★★★ Terms of Endearment ('83, Comedy-Drama) Shirley MacLaine, Debra Winger. CC					The Hours
TMC	House Party 2	★★★★ Stand by Me ('86) Wil Wheaton. CC				★★★ The School of Rock ('03) Jack Black. CC	
TNT	:00 Bones	★★ The Accountant ('16) Ben Affleck.					Gone
Travel	Kindred	Kindred Spirits (N)		Kindred Spirits (N)		Haunting-Heartland	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King
USA	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
VH1	Bad II	★★★ Rush Hour ('98) Jackie Chan.				★ Rush Hour 3 ('07)	
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing

Guillain-barre syndrome is a rare, painful autoimmune disease

DEAR DOCTOR: My brother-in-law thought he had the flu, but it turned out to be Guillain-Barre syndrome. He's now in his fifth month of an intense recovery. What can you tell me about the disease?

DEAR READER: Guillain-Barre syndrome is a rare disorder that affects about 1 in 100,000 people each year. It's an autoimmune disease, which means the immune system goes a bit haywire. It mistakes cells within your body as threatening invaders and sets out to destroy them. In Guillain-Barre, the immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system, which encompasses all of the nerves in the body other than the brain and spinal cord. Infection with certain viruses and bacteria is a known trigger of Guillain-Barre, and is responsible for up to two-thirds of all cases.

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors

Damage to the nerves results in weakness and exhaustion, often accompanied by tingling or pinprick sensations in the extremities. In the early stages of Guillain-Barre, people experience a loss of coordination that can impair balance, movement, speech, swallowing, vision and bladder control. These initial symptoms, along with possible abnormal blood pressure, both high and low, evolve over the course of the first few weeks. Progressive muscle weakness affects both sides of the body and occurs rapidly, often within hours or days. Severe cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome affect the patient's ability to breathe and result in near-complete paralysis.

Diagnosis relies largely on a person's symptoms. However, blood tests to measure red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and hemoglobin, and metabolic panels to determine levels of electrolytes, blood sugar, total proteins and metabolic waste products, may be used to rule out other conditions. Guillain-Barre can cause certain changes to spinal fluid, so a lumbar puncture, also known as a spinal tap, may be ordered. Tests to measure nerve function can also be useful.

There is no known cure, so treatment consists of addressing existing symptoms, which is known as supportive care. This includes blood therapies such as plasma exchange, or plasmapheresis, which "cleans" the blood, or immunoglobulin therapy, which uses antibodies to try to calm the immune system. Patients often experience significant pain, which can be eased with medication. Since prolonged inactivity can lead to blood clots, compression garments and blood thinners are prescribed often. In serious cases, when swallowing or breathing are compromised, a feeding tube or a ventilator may be needed.

Most patients recover completely. However, as in the case of your brother-in-law, it's often a gradual process. A lucky few are up and about in just a few months, but the majority of patients take about a year to fully recuperate. It's also possible for recovery to take several years, and for patients to experience ongoing neurological issues.

Rehabilitative care includes physical, speech and occupational therapy. It can be a tough road back to good health, and many patients and their caregivers find a support group to be helpful. You can find more information at the Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation's web site at gbs-cidp.org.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Since son doesn't want to go college, wife refuses to give up the savings for his education

DEAR CAROLYN: My wife and I saved for our two boys' college educations while they were young, and we were fortunate enough to be able to provide for a four-year, state college education with little or no debt. Our oldest likes school and will soon graduate. Our youngest does not like school and quit after one semester.

Carolyn Hax

I understand people change as they mature but I would be very surprised if Unit 2 would ever pursue a traditional four-year degree. Perhaps trade school, but my sense is he is put off by the mere thought of any type of classroom setting.

Our younger son is largely self-sufficient, with some help from us, but given his current path he is looking at a lifelong paycheck-to-paycheck struggle.

The college fund is still available, but there is a reasonable possibility it will go unused. I think it could be used for other goals, such as a down payment on a house, but my wife's position is that it was set aside for education and will only be used for education.

That seems a bit unfair to our son, when the funds could be used for life advancements other than education. What argument could I use to counter my wife's position? Or am I wrong about this? – **D.**

The argument for making other use of the money is simple, and (to me) persuasive: The whole point of saving for your sons' college educations was to give them an advantage in life, right? So, using the money to give your younger son his advantage in a form that better suits him – and therefore he is actually able to use – even if it's not as big or as socially sanctioned as the one you envisioned, would make perfect sense.

Allowing him to invest (wisely) in real estate, or setting up a trust, or paying for trade school and gifting him the rest, or letting him know the money is available to finance his long-term strategy once he's settled on one, all have the potential to shore up his financial foundation.

"Potential" being the operative word, since there are no certainties even with four-year degrees.

But that argument will be ineffective if your wife's resistance is more emotional than rational – if she's not ready to accept a son who doesn't meet her upper-middle-class definition of success.

I'm guessing, of course. But it fits. And to extend this reasoning: You aren't mired in old expectations, to your credit, and so can see your son's strengths for what they are, not what you wish they would be. That would explain why you're now able to see advantages in a Plan B.

Accordingly, you might want to start the conversation with your wife on the emotional point: We need to love and support *the son we have*.

The income advantage of a degree is well-documented on the macro level; that can be measured. Is it even possible, though, to measure the effect on a micro scale of being pressured to live someone else's idea of a worthy life? That's the risk you run in making it known you plan to withhold your son's launch money till he jumps through just the right hoop.

Urge your wife, please, not to devalue your son like that.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

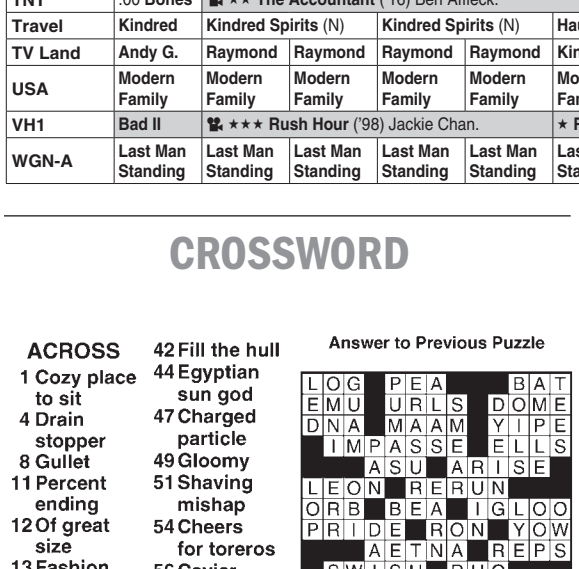
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Cozy place to sit
4 Drain stopper
8 Gullet
11 Percent ending
12 Of great size
13 Fashion
14 Ostrich look-alike
15 Ottoman title
16 Mimicked
17 Put into words
19 Scoundrel
21 Ship's position
22 Wife of Osiris
25 Adorned
29 Windy and cold
31 Mongolian desert
34 Call — — cab
35 Stare stupidly
36 Love god
37 TV spots
38 Quaint lodgings
39 Resin
40 Kiss targets
42 Fill the hull
44 Egyptian sun god
47 Charged particle
49 Gloomy
51 Shaving mishap
54 Cheers for toreros
56 Caviar
57 Musical sound
58 Exclusive
59 Catch some rays
60 Attila the —
61 Rapunzel's "ladder"
62 Wapiti

DOWN
1 Walk haltingly
2 Kahuna's hello
3 Lustrous gem
4 Sci-fi weapon
5 Kind of sled
6 Cry of distaste
7 Toothed wheel
8 Cleaning tool
9 Lemon cooler
10 Meld
13 Gym pads
18 Patronage
20 Bail out
23 Big oil supplier
24 Cut, as logs
26 Rani's servant
27 Give up land
28 Moderate
30 Mo. fractions
31 Congeal
32 Vaccine type
33 — Raton
35 Main points
40 Co. honcho
41 German ruler
43 Dutch barrier
45 Overact
46 One academy
48 Grab a cookie
49 Pastrami purveyor
50 Rangy
51 Utmost degree
52 Debt letters
53 "Early Start" airer
55 Mauna —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	O	G		P	E	A				B	A	T
E	M	U		U	R	L	S		D	O	M	E
D	N	A		M	A	A	M		Y	I	P	E
	I	M	P	A	S	S	E		E	L	L	S
			A	S	U		A	R	I	S	E	
L	E	O	N		R	E	R	U	N			
O	R	B		B	E	A		I	G	L	O	O
P	R	I	D	E		R	O	N		Y	O	W
			A	E	T	N	A		R	E	P	S
	S	W	I	S	H		R	H	O			
S	P	A	N		A	L	L	A	Y	E	D	
C	O	L	T		N	O	O	N		Y	U	K
A	R	T	Y		K	I	C	K		R	E	F
N	E	Z				S	K	Y		E	T	C



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOCEL

XRETE

SAMPIH

CECHTI

I'm glad it will be ready before my delivery.
Great timing!
Your expansion is almost finished.
CONSTRUCTION ON THEIR HOUSE'S NEW ADDITION WAS ALMOST COMPLETE AND IN THE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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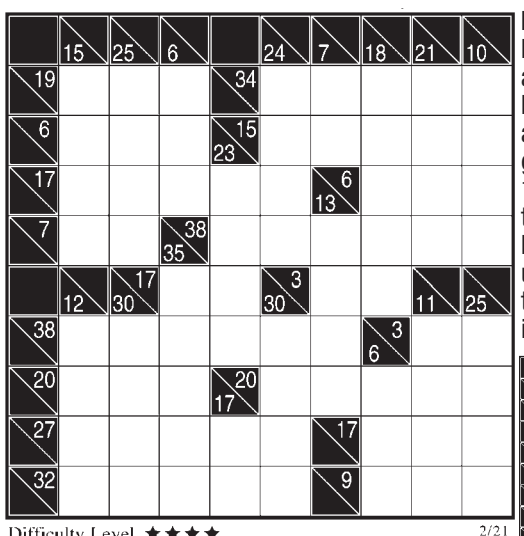
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

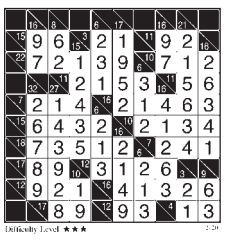
Yesterday's Jumbles: PINCH FAITH REPENT SOCIAL
Answer: Flaming Greek cheese has long been popular and wasn't just a — FLASH IN THE PAN

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/21

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Neil Armstrong, during a graduation speech at USC in 2005, said, "I hope you become comfortable with the use of logic without being deceived into concluding that logic will inevitably lead you to the correct conclusion."

It seems that he wasn't a bridge player. I guess it was just too hard to hold the cards when wearing a spacesuit! But in bridge, all players should use logic to find the best bids, leads, defenses and declarer-plays.

In today's deal, North responded two no-trump, the Jacoby Forcing Raise showing four or more spades and at least game-forcing values. South, knowing his partner had to have heart values, used Blackwood. When North replied five hearts, East woke up and doubled. What did that logically mean?

When North denied a king, South signed off in six spades.

East's double had to be lead-directing, so West led the heart two. Now, however South squirmed, he had to lose two heart tricks.

Note that after the diamond-queen lead, declarer will win, draw trumps, cash his other minor-suit winners and play a heart to the 10. Yes, East wins with his jack, but he is endplayed. He must either lead away from the heart king or concede a ruff-and-sluff.

Given East's double, how logical would it have been for South to put North into six no-trump? Note that that contract makes if declarer reads the end-position after cashing all of his black-suit winners. The curious may work it out.

North 02-21-20
♠ A J 9 7 4
♥ A Q 10 5
♦ 7 2
♣ 6 3

West
♠ 6
♥ 8 3 2
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ Q 9 7 5 4

East
♠ 5
♥ K J 9
♦ 8 6 5 4 3
♣ J 10 8 2

South
♠ K Q 10 8 3 2
♥ 7 6 4
♦ A K
♣ A K

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Dbl.!
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ??

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

8	5	4		3	7		6	
		6	4	1			8	
								4
	8		6					
		1		2		9		
					5		2	
3								
	4			7	1	6		
	7		3	4		2	9	1

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	7	3	9	6	1	2	5	4
4	5	6	8	2	3	1	9	7
2	9	1	5	7	4	6	8	3
7	6	9	4	3	5	8	2	1
5	4	8	7	1	2	9	3	6
3	1	2	6	9	8	7	4	5
1	2	5	3	8	7	4	6	9
9	3	7	2	4	6	5	1	8
6	8	4	1	5	9	3	7	2

New threats emerge in coronavirus outbreak while China voices optimism

By KEN MORITSUGU
Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese health officials expressed new optimism Thursday over the deadly virus outbreak while authorities in South Korea's fourth-largest city urged residents to hunker down as fears nagged communities far from the illness' epicenter.

The confidence voiced by China's government came as it reported a reduced number of new infections. But doubts remained about the true trajectory of the epidemic as China again changed its method of counting and new threats emerged outside the country.

"The downward trend will not be reversed," insisted Ding Xiangyang, deputy chief secretary of the State Council and a member of the central government's supervision group.

Whatever promises were aired where the illness poses its biggest threat, countries around the world continued to grapple with the rippling effects. The latest front in the widening global fight against COVID-19 emerged in Daegu, South Korea, where the city's 2.5 million residents were urged to stay inside, wearing masks even indoors to stem further infection.

Mayor Kwon Young-jin made a nationally televised appeal for those preventative measures, warning that a rash of new cases could overwhelm the health system. He pleaded for help from the country's central government.

Daegu and surrounding towns reported 35 new cases of the coronavirus on Thursday.

The flare-up came more than 900 miles from COVID-19's epicenter across the Yellow Sea in China's Hubei province and its capital of Wuhan, a sign of the risks the virus potentially poses to communities across the region and beyond.

"Everything that is not known about this is causing concern," said Dr. David Heymann, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Though all but about 1,000 of more than 75,000 reported cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in China, scattered cases have erupted elsewhere.

Iran announced three more infections Thursday, a day after it reported its first two deaths stemming from the virus, and South Korea reported its first fatality. Japan said two former passengers of the Diamond Princess cruise ship had died of the illness, bringing the death toll there to three.

A total of 11 deaths have been confirmed outside mainland China, including two in Hong Kong and one each in France, the Philippines and Taiwan.

The trajectory of the outbreak remained clouded by China's zigzagging daily reports of new cases and shifting ways of tallying them.

Kim Jong-un / Yonhap via AP

Medial workers wearing protective gears move a patient suspected of contracting the new coronavirus from an ambulance to the Kyungpook National University Hospital in Daegu, South Korea, on Wednesday.

The number of new cases in China declined again Thursday, to 394, a notable shift from the 1,749 figure released a day earlier. Another 114 deaths in China were linked to the virus.

But those statistics came after yet another change in how cases are counted.

Last week, China's National Health Commission said officials in Hubei would record new infections without waiting for laboratory test results, relying instead on doctors' diagnoses and lung imaging. But on Thursday it returned to its prior way of counting, a decision sure to aggravate observers who say consistency is key to understanding COVID-19's path.

The health commission said it was reducing its count of infections by 279 after lab tests found they had wrongly been included in the tally.

Feng Yong, an official for health matters at the Chinese diplomatic mission in Geneva, said the reason for the reversal was that the country's laboratory capacity had improved dramatically so all patients can now be tested.

Last week, when the methodology was changed, "we did not have enough capacity to give laboratory tests," Feng told The Associated Press. "So that's the reason we included all the suspected cases, in order to let them get treatment."

Martin Meissner / AP

A woman sets a candle on Thursday near the hookah bar scene where several people were killed late Wednesday in Hanau, Germany. A 43-year-old German man shot and killed several people at different locations in a Frankfurt suburb overnight in attacks that appear to have been motivated by far-right beliefs, officials said Thursday.

German gunman calling for genocide kills 9 people

By DAVID McHUGH, DAVID RISING and FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

HANAU, Germany — A German who shot and killed nine people of foreign background in a rampage that began at a hookah bar frequented by immigrants had posted an online rant calling for the "complete extermination" of many "races or cultures in our midst," authorities said Thursday.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the attack exposed the "poison" of racism in the country.

The gunman, Tobias Rathjen, 43, was found dead at his home along with his mother, and authorities said they were treating the rampage as an act of domestic terrorism.

Turks, ethnic Kurds and people with backgrounds from Bulgaria, Bosnia and Romania were among those killed, according to news reports. Turkey's ambassador said five of the dead were Turkish citizens. People of Turkish background make up Germany's single largest minority.

Rathjen opened fire at the hookah bar and a neighboring cafe in the Frankfurt suburb of Hanau around 10 p.m. Wednesday, killing several people, then traveled about 1.5 miles and fired on a car and a sports bar, claiming more victims. In addition to the dead, six people were injured, one seriously, authorities said.

Hookah lounges are places where people gather to smoke flavored tobacco from Middle Eastern water pipes. Metin Kan, who knew many of the victims, said it was obvious why the gunman chose the neighborhood.

"Look, a hookah bar there, a gaming parlor there, a doner kebab place there – it's a place frequented by immigrants," he said. "Why this hatred of foreigners? We all get along here."

Kadir Kose, who runs a cafe nearby, said he was shocked at the extent of the violence: "This is a whole other level, something we hear about from America."

The bloodshed came amid growing concerns about far-right violence in Germany and stepped-up efforts to crack down on it, including last week's detention of a dozen men on suspicion they were planning attacks against politicians and minorities.

"This poison exists in our society and its is responsible for far too many crimes," Merkel said, citing the killings of 10 people across the country between 2000 and 2007 by a far-right gang, the fatal shooting last year of a regional politician from her party, and a deadly attack outside a synagogue in Halle on Yom Kippur in October.

She pledged to stand up against those who seek to divide the country.

"There is much to indicate that the perpetrator acted out of far-right extremist, racist motives," she said. "Out of hatred for people with other origins, other faiths or a different appearance."

While investigators said it appeared the gunman acted alone, Germany's federal prosecutor, Peter Frank, said authorities are trying to find out whether there were others who knew of or supported the attack. He added that his office is looking into any contacts the killer may have had inside Germany or abroad.

Peter Beuth, interior minister for the state of Hesse, said it does not appear Rathjen had a criminal record or was on the radar of Germany's domestic intelligence agency.

Witnesses and surveillance video of the getaway car led authorities quickly to the gunman's home, where he and his 72-year-old mother were found dead with gunshot wounds, apparently bringing the number of victims killed to 10.

Frank identified the gunman only as Tobias R., in line with German privacy laws, and confirmed he had posted extremist videos and a screed with "confused ideas and far-fetched conspiracy theories" on his website, which has since been taken down. He identified himself on the website as Tobias Rathjen.

"We now have ethnic groups, races or cultures in our midst that are destructive in every respect," Rathjen wrote in his rambling, 24-page screed on his website. He said he envisioned first a "rough cleaning" and then a "fine cleaning" that could halve the world's population.

"The following people must be completely exterminated," he wrote, then went on to list two dozen countries, most of them Muslim.

The deadly attack was quickly condemned by many organizations, including the Central Council of Muslims, the Confederation of Kurdish Associations in Germany, and the Central Council of Jews.

In his rant, Rathjen also detailed fears that he had been under government surveillance for years and blamed the monitoring for his inability to have a relationship with a woman. He also claimed to have approached police several times with conspiracy theories.

Separately, he sought help last year in finding out who was allegedly observing him from a Austrian man, Bernd Gloggnitzer, who teaches "remote viewing," a practice that adherents claim gives them the ability to sense the unseen.

"I didn't reply because I could tell from the email that he was a nutcase," Gloggnitzer told The Associated Press. He said Rathien forwarded to him a criminal complaint that he had drawn up and sent to Germany's federal prosecutors, and "it was one conspiracy theory after another."

In the criminal complaint that he drew up, Rathien said that he worked for a price comparison website as a sales consultant but quit to devote all his attention to investigating the alleged surveillance. On his own website, he said he was born and raised in Hanau and earned a business degree.

He had a license to possess a gun, first issued in 2013, local authorities told Germany's dpa news agency. Local media reported he owned three 9 mm pistols. Some 5.4 million of Germany's 83 million people have guns. Owners must undergo background checks, including showing that they are not mentally ill.

German police were also examining a video Rathjen may have posted online several days before the attack in which he detailed a conspiracy theory about child abuse in the United States, dpa reported.

He made no reference to the far-right QAnon movement in the U.S., but the message was similar to the fringe group's central, baseless belief that President Donald Trump is under attack from "deep state" enemies and that satanists and cannibals are running a child sex trafficking ring.

Trump makes unconventional pick to oversee 'deep state'

By BEN FOX
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has made an unconventional pick to oversee America's spy agencies: an unusually undiplomatic ambassador who has had little intelligence experience.

The appointment Thursday of Richard Grenell, an outspoken Trump loyalist, as acting Director of National Intelligence does little to heal the president's fraught relations with an intelligence community he has derided as part of the "deep state" of entrenched bureaucrats that seek to undermine his agenda.

GRENELL

But it follows the logic of an administration that prizes loyalty and has a penchant for "acting" Cabinet secretaries who don't require a potentially bruising Senate confirmation.

The background of Grenell, the U.S. ambassador to Germany since April 2018, is primarily in politics and media affairs. He lacks the extensive national security and military experience of the acting director he replaces, Joseph Maguire, as well as previous holders of the position. Such experience appears to be required under the 2004 law that created the post to coordinate the work of the nation's 17 intelligence agencies.

In announcing Grenell's appointment, the White House pointed to his diplomatic background and work as a spokesman for the U.S. mission to the United Nations. Trump said on Twitter that "Rick has represented our Country exceedingly well."

His selection follows the logic of an administration that has feuded with the intelligence community, most notably over Russian interference in the 2016 election and the events surrounding Trump's impeachment.

The appointment also fits a pattern of appointing "acting" Cabinet secretaries, who can serve for limited periods and do not have to undergo confirmation fights in the Senate.

Grenell, who is apparently the first openly gay Cabinet member in any administration, said on Twitter that he expects to hold the job only on a temporary basis. "The President will announce the Nominee (not me) sometime soon," he said.

He will also continue to keep his ambassador post as well as a third job as Special Presidential Envoy for Serbia and Kosovo Peace Negotiations, according to a U.S. official in Germany. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to respond to questions not addressed in a brief White House statement on the Grenell appointment.

Former officials expressed shock that Grenell would try to take on two of those jobs at the same time, let alone all three.

The Director of National Intelligence was created in response to the findings of the 9/11 Commission, which concluded that federal agencies failed to share valuable intelligence before the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

The 2004 law establishing the position says the director "shall have extensive national security expertise."

Current acting Director Maguire, who was required to leave soon under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, had been director of the National Counter-Terrorism Center and had a 36-year career as a Naval Special Warfare Officer. The vacancies law sets limits on acting appointees in senior posts.

Grenell may only be able to serve legally for a few more weeks. The Vacancies Reform Act allows the president to name an acting office holder for a limited period following the departure of the previous permanent one, in this case Coats. That clock would expire on March 11 unless Trump were to nominate a new permanent director before then, in which case Grenell could stay on, said Stephen Vladeck, a University of Texas law professor.

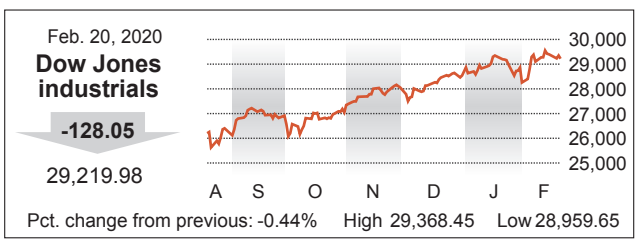
One benefit that Grenell brings, Pfeiffer said, is his strong relationship with the president, who has disputed intelligence findings that Russia interfered on his behalf in the 2016 election.

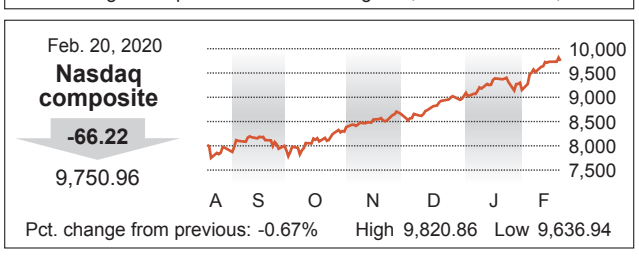
Much like the president who appointed him, Grenell is a voracious tweeter whose posts have frequently been criticized for crossing the line between fair criticism and mean-spirited trolling. During a brief stint as a foreign affairs spokesman for Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign, Grenell deleted hundreds of past tweets goading media figures and mocking well-known female politicians for their appearance.

Since arriving in Germany as ambassador in 2018, Grenell has rankled many in the political establishment by openly criticizing German policies, including Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to welcome more than a million asylum seekers in 2015-16, while praising Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, who has taken a hard line on migration, as a "rock star."

Dating from his time as spokesman for former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton, Grenell has had an antagonistic relationship with members of the media, whom he frequently criticizes for perceived liberal bias. He has issued demands for retractions and corrections over unfavorable reports later confirmed to be accurate.

MARKETS





Amer Elec Power AEP
$102.38 **-1.38 -1.3%**
▲ **4-wk.** +1.4% ▲ **YTD** +8.3%

Whirlpool WHR
$149.08 **-3.08 -2.0%**
▼ **4-wk.** -1.1% ▲ **YTD** +1.1%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO		HI	◇CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	29.67	—◇—	39.70	38.61	+.17	+0.4	▲	▼	▼
AEP	AEP	79.91	—◇—	104.97	102.38	-1.12	-1.1	▼	▲	▲
Apple Inc	AAPL	169.49	—◇—	327.85	320.30	-3.32	-1.0	▼	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	886.95	—◇—	1274.41	1082.52	+15.73	+1.5	▲	▼	▼
BP PLC	BP	35.07	◇—	45.38	35.98	-.27	-0.7	▼	▼	▼
CMS Eng	CMS	53.41	—◇—	69.12	68.59	+.11	+0.2	▲	▲	▲
CocaCola	KO	44.42	—◇—	60.07	59.72	-.05	-0.1	▼	▲	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	37.44	—◇—	47.74	46.02	+.05	+0.1	▼	▲	▲
Deere	DE	132.68	—◇—	180.48	165.83	+.90	+0.5	▼	▼	▼
Disney	DIS	107.32	—◇—	153.41	140.37	-.93	-0.7	▲	▼	▼
DollarTree	DLTR	85.37	◇—	119.71	93.22	+1.23	+1.3	▲	▲	▼
ExxonMbl	XOM	59.45	◇—	83.49	59.86	-.48	-0.8	▼	▼	▼
FifthThird	FITB	24.17	—◇—	31.64	29.83	+.20	+0.7	▲	▲	▼
1stSource	SRCE	41.88	—◇—	53.42	47.72	+.35	+0.7	▼	▼	▼
FordM	F	8.00	◇—	10.56	8.03	+.03	+0.4	▼	▼	▼
GenElec	GE	7.65	—◇—	13.26	12.53	-.08	-0.6	▼	▲	▲
HomeDp	HD	179.52	—◇—	246.11	247.02	+3.38	+1.4	▲	▲	▲
HorizBcp	HBNC	15.21	—◇—	19.48	17.05	+.10	+0.6	▼	▼	▼
HuntBncsh	HBAN	12.15	—◇—	15.63	14.14	+.11	+0.8	▲	▼	▼
IDEX	IEX	142.20	—◇—	178.14	173.58	+.04	...	▼	▼	▲
IBM	IBM	126.85	—◇—	158.75	151.22	+.36	+0.2	▲	▲	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	98.09	—◇—	141.10	137.49	...	...	▬	▲	▼
JohnJn	JNJ	126.10	—◇—	154.50	148.37	-.57	-0.4	▼	▼	▲
Lowes	LOW	91.60	—◇—	125.91	126.57	+3.13	+2.5	▲	▲	▲
McDnlds	MCD	178.27	—◇—	221.93	215.08	-.55	-0.3	▼	▲	▲
Microsoft	MSFT	106.29	—◇—	190.70	184.42	-2.86	-1.5	▼	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	33.94	—◇—	49.88	40.23	+.17	+0.4	▼	▼	▼
Penney	JCP	0.53	◇—	1.92	.77	+.06	+7.9	▲	▼	▼
Perrigo	PRGO	40.68	—◇—	60.98	59.61	+.41	+0.7	▲	▲	▲
Pfizer	PFE	33.97	◇—	44.56	35.85	-.38	-1.0	▼	▼	▼
ProctGam	PG	97.75	—◇—	128.09	126.58	+1.14	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
RepubSvc	RSG	76.13	—◇—	100.91	99.12	-.92	-0.9	▼	▲	▲
Steelcse	SCS	14.45	—◇—	23.02	18.97	+.14	+0.7	▼	▼	▼
Stryker	SYK	174.84	—◇—	226.30	224.47	-.63	-0.3	▲	▲	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	35.96	—◇—	47.71	42.75	+.32	+0.8	▼	▼	▼
Target	TGT	70.03	—◇—	130.24	118.26	+.87	+0.7	▲	▲	▼
TractSupp	TSCO	88.02	—◇—	114.25	99.00	+.36	+0.4	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	92.65	—◇—	125.31	106.48	-.28	-0.3	▲	▼	▼
VerizonCm	VZ	54.26	—◇—	62.22	58.09	-.13	-0.2	▼	▼	▼
WEC Engy	WEC	74.89	—◇—	103.25	102.39	-.02	...	▲	▲	▲
WalMart	WMT	96.53	—◇—	125.38	117.69	+.01	...	▼	▲	▼
WalgBoots	WBA	49.03	◇—	74.95	51.87	-.20	-0.4	▼	▼	▼
Wendys Co	WEN	16.25	—◇—	23.53	23.60	+.29	+1.2	▲	▲	▲
Whrlpl	WHR	114.00	—◇—	163.64	149.08	+1.86	+1.3	▼	▼	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	33.18	◇—	44.69	37.44	...	...	▼	▼	▼
XPO Logis	XPO	45.73	—◇—	99.43	99.11	+1.64	+1.7	▲	▲	▲

PRODUCE PRICES

The following fruit prices were recorded on the Chicago Terminal Market on Wednesday. Prices are not net to the growers as freight and selling fees have not been deducted. These prices were provided by the USDA Market News Branch office in Chicago.

APPLES: Cartons tray pack of Washington Extra Fancy 72s Red Delicious sold from mostly $25-26, Golden Delicious sold from $36-39, Fuji sold for $32-34, Pink Lady brought $38-40, Gala sold for $32-33, and 72 size Honeycrisp sold from $48-50. Cartons of 12 3-pound film bags of Washington WA Extra Fancy 2 1/2-inch minimum Red Delicious sold for $22, while Golden Delicious brought $23, Gala sold for $23-24, while bushel cartons loose of Michigan 3-inch minimum Golden Delicious, Gala and Jonagold brought $20.

ASPARAGUS: Pyramid cartons/crates 11-pound bunched standard size from Peru sold steady for $21.50, while large white bunched brought $28.50-29.50, while standard offerings from Mexico brought $25.

BEANS: Bushel cartons/crates of round green type machine-picked offerings from Florida sold from $11-13, with hand-picked offerings $14-16.

BERRIES: Flats of 12 1-pint cups with lids of medium-large berries from Peru sold lower for $24.50, while fine appearance offerings from Mexico in flats of 12 6-ounce cups sold from $24-27, with organic offerings sold for $36. Strawberries in flats of eight 1-pound containers medium size from Florida sold lower from $14-16, with fine appearance offerings from Mexico mostly $21-22. Organic offerings from Mexico of fine appearance brought $54.

BROCCOLI: Cartons of 14 bunches from California sold slightly lower from $11-13, with organic offerings lower from $18.50-20.

CABBAGE: 50-pound cartons of round green medium from Texas sold lower from mostly $12-14, while red offerings sold from $18.50-20.50.

CAULIFLOWER: Cartons of 12 film wrapped heads from California sold steady for $20-22, with organic offerings slightly lower from $23.50-24.

CORN: Wirebound crates of four dozen bi-color from Florida sold lower from $22-24.

CUCUMBERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons from Mexico of medium size sold from mostly $29-31, with large mostly $37-39, and carton 24s sold from $15-17. Pickles of 200-300 size from Mexico sold higher for mostly $35-36.

EGGPLANT: 1-1/9-bushel cartons of 24-count eggs from Mexico sold lower from $14-16.

LETTUCE: Cartons film wrapped 24 heads of iceberg lettuce from California sold higher from $18-20, while organic offerings brought $26-26.50.

ORANGES: Cartons of 10 4-pound film bags of Florida 80 size Hmlin juice oranges sold lower for $22.

PEPPERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons of Florida green jumbos and extra-large sold steady from $14-16, with large mostly $11-12. Medium size jalapeno peppers from Mexico sold for $21, serranos brought $22, while extra-large poblano sold from $20-22 and medium Hungarian wax sold for mostly $19-20.

SQUASH: 4/7-bushel cartons of small-medium zucchini from Mexico sold lower from mostly $21-22 with medium size $20-22, and yellow straightneck small-medium sold higher for $32, with mediums $30-32. 1 1/9-bushel cartons from Michigan of medium size acorn and butternut sold for $22.

TOMATOES: 25-pound cartons loose mature greens 5x6s from Florida sold higher for mostly $23-24, while offerings from Mexico of 4x5 size were steady for mostly $21-23. Flats 12 1-pint containers with lids of light red-red medium size grape tomatoes from Florida sold higher from mostly $14-16, with offerings from Mexico $12-14. Cartons of 12 1-pint baskets of cherry type red from Florida sold lower for $30. Plum tomatoes packed in 25-pound cartons loose of extra-large size from Mexico sold much higher for $42, with large size $22-24.

U.S. panel delays vote on Oregon pipeline amid process issues

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

Andrew Selsky / AP file

Demonstrators against a proposed liquid-natural gas pipeline and export terminal in Oregon sit in the governor's office in the State Capitol in Salem, Ore., to demand Democratic Gov. Kate Brown stand against the proposal on Nov. 21. The Jordan Cove pipeline is undergoing a permitting process and would end at a proposed marine export terminal in Coos Bay, Ore. Members of a federal regulatory agency on Thursday delayed a vote on the project, with one member saying greenhouse gas emissions and endangered species should be considered.

SALEM, Ore. — A U.S. regulatory agency on Thursday delayed a vote on a proposed natural gas pipeline and marine export terminal in Oregon, with one member saying greenhouse gas emissions and endangered species should be considered and blasting the decision-making process as "rotten."

The issues bluntly raised at the meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington came on top of objections to the mega-project by Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development. In a letter released Wednesday, the department said the Jordan Cove Energy Project would harm the environment and had failed to obtain necessary permits and to provide information requested by the department.

"Coastal effects analyses show that the project will negatively impact Oregon's coastal scenic and aesthetic resources, a variety of endangered and threatened species, critical habitat and ecosystem services, fisheries resources, commercial and recreational fishing and boating, and commercial shipping and transportation, among other sectors," the department said.

The proposed natural gas terminal and 230-mile pipeline would permit shipment of natural gas from the United States and Canada to Asia and would be the West Coast's first liquefied natural gas export terminal. The Trump administration supports energy export projects and in particular Jordan Cove, a project of Pembina, a Canadian company. It has proposed streamlining approval of gas pipelines and other energy projects by limiting states' certification authorities under the U.S. Clean Water Act.

The three members of the federal commission were all appointed by President Donald Trump. U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, urged Trump last month to appoint a full and bipartisan five-member commission before a ruling is made on Jordan Cove. Otherwise, a decision could be interpreted as politically motivated, he said.

While the commission delayed the issue Thursday, member Bernard McNamee said he was giving it an initial "nay" until he could study Wednesday's decision by the Oregon agency. Commissioner Richard Glick had harsh words for the way the panel operates, saying it ignores environmental impacts.

"We really don't consider or include those environmental impacts in our decision-making process," Glick said at the meeting. "Something's really rotten with that."

Glick also said Oregon's goal to limit greenhouse gas emission should be considered because a pipeline across southern Oregon and an export terminal on Coos Bay would produce around 15 percent of the 14 million metric ton limit Oregon wants to reach by the year 2050.

"This is going to really make it difficult for Oregon to reach its standards," Glick said. He pointed out that the project is expected to have significant impacts on 20 threatened or endangered species, among other negative effects.

The Natural Gas Act requires public-interest benefits to be weighed against adverse impacts, Glick said.

"We're not doing that in this particular case, and that's why I think this commission has earned its reputation for being a rubber stamp for these types of pipeline and LNG projects," Glick said.

After Glick and McNamee spoke, commission chairman Neil Chatterjee said he was disappointed there was no final vote on the project, but he respected the other commissioners' need for more time. He said the application remains pending.

There was no immediate response to a request for comment from Jordan Cove.

Opponents of the project, including the group Rogue Climate, applauded the actions by McNamee and Glick.

"Tens of thousands of people across the region have spoken out against this Jordan Cove LNG for over a decade," said Allie Rosenbluth of Rogue Climate. "It's time to put an end to Jordan Cove LNG for good this time so our communities can focus on creating local jobs in clean energy instead."

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has already denied a water quality certification for the proposed project. Pembina withdrew its application for another state permit, saying it would await a decision by the commission.

Struggling Victoria's Secret sold as women demand comfort

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and MICHELLE CHAPMAN
Associated Press

Mary Altaffer / AP

Shoppers walk past the Victoria's Secret store on Broadway in the Soho neighborhood of New York. Victoria's Secret's owner, L Brands, said that the private-equity firm Sycamore Brands will buy 55 percent of Victoria's Secret for about $525 million. Victoria's Secret will become a private company.

NEW YORK — Victoria's Secret, which once defined sexy with its leggy supermodels in their lacy bras and oversized angel wings, has a new owner.

Now, the big question is whether the once sought after but now struggling brand can be reinvented for a new generation of women demanding more comfortable styles.

The company's owner, L Brands, said Thursday that the private-equity firm Sycamore Partners will buy 55 percent of Victoria's Secret for about $525 million. The Columbus, Ohio, company will keep the remaining 45 percent stake. After the sale, L Brands will be left with its Bath & Body Works chain and Victoria's Secret will become a private company.

Les Wexner, 82, who founded the parent company in 1963, will step down as chairman and CEO after the transaction is completed and become chairman emeritus.

The selling price for Victoria's Secret signifies a marked decline for a brand with hundreds of stores that booked about $7 billion in revenue last year.

In a statement, Wexner said the deal will provide the best path to restoring Victoria's Secret's businesses to their "historical levels of profitability and growth." The deal will also allow the company to reduce debt and Sycamore will bring a "fresh perspective and greater focus to the business," he said.

To successfully turn around Victoria's Secret, Sycamore will need to change up the corporate culture, reinvent the fashions and redesign the stores to make them more contemporary, experts say. Sycamore manages a $10 billion portfolio including such struggling retailers as Belk, Hot Topic and Talbots.

The management team at Victoria's Secret essentially was designing what men want, not what women want, said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail.

"The brand is very embedded in the past," said Saunders. "It was always about men feeling good. It should be about making women feel good about themselves."

Victoria's Secret had a long unparalleled run of success. The brand was founded by the late Roy Larson Raymond in the late 1970s after he felt embarrassed about purchasing lingerie for his wife. Wexner, the founder of the then Limited Stores Inc., purchased Victoria's Secret in 1982 and turned it into a powerful retail force.

That glamour has faded and so have sales in the last few years. The show was canceled last year, and shares of Victoria Secret's parent have gone from triple digits less than five years ago to a quarter of that today.

Victoria's Secret struggled to keep up with competition and failed to respond to changing tastes among women who want more comfortable styles. Rivals like Adore Me and ThirdLove, which have sprouted up online and marketed themselves heavily on social media platforms like Instagram, have focused on fit and comfort while offering more options for different body types. Meanwhile, American Eagle's Aerie lingerie chain, which partners with women activists like Manuela Baron, has also lured customers away from Victoria's Secret.

Taco John's launches re-branding and growth initiative

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A Wyoming-based fast food company is attempting to revamp its branding and expand the franchise as it adds new stores and remodels older ones.

Taco John's International Inc. launched what it calls an aggressive growth initiative, The Wyoming Tribune Eagle reports.

The restaurant chain based in Cheyenne said new stores and those undergoing remodeling will use the new branding while the company focuses on more franchising opportunities.

The first new Taco John's restaurant opened in Cheyenne in October with the company's updated logo and branding and new menu items prior to a planned national roll out.

A satellite franchise support center location also opened in Minneapolis to be closer to more than 200 Taco John's locations in the Midwest.

Taco John's hopes to increase the number of new stores, with plans to open between 15 and 20 this year and between 20 and 25 next year.

"Everything we were doing was getting ready to grow the chain," President and CEO Jim Creel said.

The Herald-Palladium

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

La Porte, In
One, two and two plus available. Some utilities included. No smoking and no pets. Call for more information & pics at: 801.860.6674

Michigan City, IN
Gorgeous, historic apartments all hardwood floors All appliances included, half basement with washer and dryer. 4 bedroom $900/mos. Front & rear porch. Call Mike (219) 465-8884

Michigan City, IN
Queen's Park Apts Spacious 1&2 bdrm Newly remodeled. Small, quiet residential setting. Pets welcome from $650 &up/mo 219-296-9606

Michigan City, IN
Two Bedroom apt. Please call 219-851-1931

Spacious LaPorte Townhouse
1, 2 & 3 Bedrm Apts. for rent. Pet Friendly 219-362-0350

Westville, IN
1 bedroom apt. $700/month plus utilities $600 security deposit Call 219-508-6750

HOMES FOR RENT

La Porte, IN
New Buffalo home for rent with option. New construction. See it at: amazingnew buffalohome.com 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath. Sturgeon Beach w/Galien River view. Beach rights. $3200.Call 773-531-7990

DUPLEXES FOR RENT

KINGSFORD HEIGHTS:
2 bedroom with appliances included.High efficiency furnace. $550 plus deposit. No pets.
3 bedroom with appliances and high efficiency furnace. $600 plus deposit. No pets. Call 219-575-2877

WANTED TO RENT

South Haven, MI.
LOOKING TO RENT in South Haven (area) 3 bedrooms, pet friendly, responsible renter. Call Liz 269-214-1010

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

Baroda, MI
HOUSE FOR SALE Cute 3 bdrm house near downtown Baroda. February Special $118,500! Amenities include two car garage-large yard-basement-first floor laundry-new flooring-dining room-gas forced air heat-city water & sewer-Great location! 8929 Second St CALL NOW 269-208-0403!

MISC. REAL ESTATE

Michigan City, IN
Investment property for sale. Two unit building on wide lot has parking and EZ access to shopping, bus routes. Tenants pay utilities. 113 E Barker Ave $82,500 Call Rick Remijas, BHHSChicago (773)-908-1969 for details

LEGALS

HAGAR TOWNSHIP BERRIEN COUNTY MICHIGAN

Hagar Township, a General Law Township in Berrien County Michigan, is looking for proposals from Certified Public Accountants to preform the Township's Audit for the fiscal years 3.31.2020, 2021, and 2022. A 3 year proposal.

All bids are to be sealed, marked as "Bids for Audit" and are to be received no later than 1:00 pm, local time, Friday March 6th, 2020 at Hagar Township Hall, 3900 Riverside Road, Riverside, Michigan, 49084.

The Hagar Township Board reserves the right to waive any informalities and the right to accept or reject any or all proposals not in the best interest of Hagar Township.

For further information, please contact Izzy DiMaggio, Supervisor, Hagar Township, at the Township Hall, 269.849.0455.

LEGAL NOTICE

TO: ALL RESIDENTS OF ST. JOSEPH CHARTER TOWNSHIP

ST. JOSEPH CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW

The Organizational meeting of the St. Joseph Charter Township Board of Review will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Joseph Charter Township Hall. No appeals of 2020 assessments will be heard at this meeting.

The Board of Review will be held at the Township Hall, 3000 Washington Ave., St. Joseph, MI and will meet to hear appeals of 2020 assessments on Monday, March 9, 2020, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.; and Wednesday, March 11, 2020, from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Resident and non-resident property owners may protest by letter on or before March 11, 2020.

Estimated multipliers for each class of property for 2020 are as follows:

201 Commercial - 0.9743

301 Industrial - 1.0040

401 Residential - 1.0386

The tentative ratio for each class is 50%. The inflation rate for use in calculating 2020 capped values is 1.0190.

(ADA) American with Disabilities Notice: The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 7 days notice. Please call 269-429-7703 to make request.

Roger Seely
Supervisor/Secretary to Board of Review

Legal Notice
City of St. Joseph
Board of Review

The Organizational Meeting of the City of St. Joseph Board of Review will be held on Tuesday March 3, 2020 at 3:00 pm in the first-floor conference room at 700 Broad Street, St. Joseph. No appeals of assessments will be heard at this time. The Board of Review will meet to hear appeals of 2020 assessments in the City Commission Chambers on Monday March 9, 2020 from 9am to 12 noon and 1pm to 4pm and Wednesday March 11, 2020 from 9am to 12 noon and 6pm to 9pm. Please call 269-983-1231 to make an appointment. Residents and non-residents may appeal by mail. Appeals by letter must be received on or before March 10, 2020. Estimated multipliers for each class of properties are as follows:

201 Commercial - 1.0410

301 Industrial - 1.0714

401 Residential - 1.0695

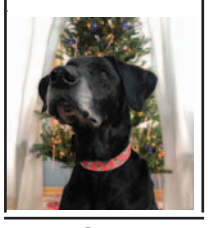
The tentative ratio for each class is 50%. The inflation rate for use in calculating 2020 capped values is 1.019. The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 7 days notice. Please call 269-983-1231 to make request.

Denise Westfall
City Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOST

LOST DOG
Leila went missing 2/1 off of Paw Paw Ave across from Whirlpool in Benton Township. She is a 13 y/o black lab with a purple collar with gold tags. She likely won't come if you call her- so please if you see her call 630-484-5756 or 269-625-4869.
1,000 $ Reward for safe return



FOUND

Three Oaks, MI
Found Beagle in Three Oaks area. It is chipped but no name and address was recorded. I have the chip number. To claim the dog, you must send me the chip number that you have so the dog is not wrongfully claimed. Call or text me with your chip number at 219-508-4201.

EMPLOYMENT

GENERAL HELP

South Haven, MI.
The City of South Haven is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2020 season:

Seasonal Laborers – Parks & Cemetery Dept. Perform general parks and cemetery maintenance including mowing, trimming, trash pick-up, cleaning facilities and minor repairs. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age with a valid Michigan driver's license and a good driving record. Must be available to work day shift hours Monday through Friday with some evenings, weekends and holidays required. The position is seasonal from March through November.

Bridge Tender – Street Dept Responsible for opening and closing bascule bridge on an established schedule and ensuring that all boat traffic passing through bridge is accounted for. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Must be available to work a rotating shift between the hours of 6:00AM - 12:00 midnight Monday – Sunday, including holidays. The position is seasonal from March through October, with an average of 25 hours per week.

Candidates may apply online at *www.southhaven.com* or by filling out a paper application available at City Hall. City of South Haven is an Equal Opportunity Employer

SKILLED TRADE

Michigan City
Looking for a person to handle & spread fabric, plus other duties. FT w/ benefit package. Apply in person: Filtration Plus 4208 N. 900 W. (S. Woodland Ave.) Michigan City IN

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Rolling Prairie, IN
Co-Alliance: Hiring Seasonal Truck Drivers and General Laborers. Ideal candidates will have Class A, B, or Ag CDL (or willing to obtain) with acceptable driving history and current DOT physical. Must be able to meet the physical demands of the position and work overtime. Must pass background check and drug screen. Apply at www.co-alliance.com or in person at 310 S Prairie St, Rolling Prarie, IN 46371: (219-778-2015)

Three Oaks, MI
VILLAGE of THREE OAKS WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEMS OPERATOR
The Village of Three Oaks is seeking candidates for an Operations and Maintenance System Operator under the direct supervision of the Water/Sewer Superintendent. The ideal candidate will have some experience with drinking water and wastewater systems, but we are willing to train the right individual. The minimum qualifications include a high school diploma, valid driver's license and/or a Class B CDL, basic math skills, and experience with operating machinery and equipment safely and responsibly. Must have the ability to lift 50 lbs or more, work in all weather conditions and have the availability to work nights, weekends, holidays and overtime if necessary. Must be able to obtain the S4 and D4 drinking water licenses within one year of hire and the L1 lagoon treatment license within 18 months of hire. Pay is based upon experience. Please submit resumes to Quentin Clark, Water/Sewer Superintendent at qclark@threeoaksvillage.org or stop by Village Hall at 21 N. Elm St, Three Oaks, MI for an application.

Careers are made in the Classifieds... Find One Today!

LINCOLN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW

The Organizational meeting will be held on March 3, 2020 at 11:30 am in the assessor's office of the Lincoln Township Municipal Building. No appeals of 2020 assessments will be heard at this time. The Board of Review will meet to hear appeals of 2020 assessments by appointment on March 9, 9 am-12:00 pm and 1:00-4:00 pm. Also on March 11, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm and 6:00 pm–9:00 pm. Appointments may be made by calling 269-429-1589 ext 103 during regular business hours of 9 am to 5 pm. Resident and non-resident property owners may protest by letter on or before March 6, 2020. Estimated multipliers for each class of property for 2020 are as follows:

Agricultural….....	1.0163
Commercial….....	1.1138
Industrial….....	1.0098
Residential….....	1.2375

The tentative ratio for each class is 50%. The inflation rate multiplier for use in calculating 2020 capped value is 1.019

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the Township Clerk. If you require such aids or services and plan to appeal in person please call the Township.

Richard Stauffer Supervisor/Secretary to the Board of Review.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Union Mills, IN
Co-Alliance: Hiring Seasonal Truck Drivers and General Laborers. Ideal candidates will have Class A, B, or Ag CDL (or willing to obtain) with acceptable driving history and current DOT physical. Must be able to meet the physical demands of the position and work overtime. Must pass background check and drug screen. Apply at www.co-alliance.com or in person at 3551 W 800 S Union Mills, IN 46382 (219-767-2251)

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

MERCHANDISE

ANTIQUES/ART

La Porte, In
Wanted: Super 8 Home Movie Projector. La Porte County Historical Society Museum. 2405 Indiana Ave. La Porte. In. 46350

Sell your unwanted items quickly with a classified ad.

PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST NOTICE
To All Qualified Electors in the City of Bangor, Van Buren County, State of Michigan

Notice is hereby given that the Election Commission will hold the Public Accuracy Test of the Optical scan voting system to be used in the March 10, 2020 Primary Election in the following jurisdiction on the date and time listed:
CITY OF BANGOR
City Hall
257 Monroe Street
Bangor, MI 49013
February 26, 2020
The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.
This test is open to the public.

Tommy Simpson, Chair
Election Commission

BERRIEN RESA
Request for Proposals
Unified VOIP Telecommunications System

Berrien RESA, Berrien Springs, Michigan will receive proposals from qualified vendors for a Unified VOIP Telecommunications System. Berrien RESA will receive sealed Bids described in the Scope of Work for the above referenced project until 12:00 p.m. local time, Friday, March 6, 2020. Bids received after 12:00 p.m. will remain unopened. All proposals must be sealed and plainly labeled VOIP Phone System Bid. Bids shall be mailed, or delivered in person, before the 12:00 p.m. deadline, to Berrien RESA, PO Box 364, 711 St. Joseph Ave, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. The location of the Bid opening will be in the Main Conference Room at Berrien RESA office. They will be opened publicly and read aloud immediately after the bid time. All Bids will be evaluated at a later date. Bidding Documents can be found at www.berrienresa.org, select Berrien RESA » Administrative Services » Building and Grounds » Current and Pending Projects. A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will take place on Friday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m. local time at Berrien RESA office. All prospective Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

PETS

CATS/DOGS/PETS

Benton Harbor, Mi
Havanese puppies. 5 males available. $950. to $1250. each. Pure breed. No papers. Will be ready Feb. 25. Have first shots and vet checked. Please call: 720-300-9466

WANTED TO RENT/ BUY/TRADE

Watervliet, MI
Buying junk Vehicles & Scrap Metal Call Ray @ 269-463-3565

MISC. ITEMS FOR SALE

Beauty Salon in Michigan City for Lease. Long Established and Highly Successful. Beauty Equipment For Sale. Call 972-824-1007 for Information.

Benton Harbor, MI
Pepsi Pop Can Machine- Holds 6 vartiety, excellent condition $450.00 269-944-5729

CATS/DOGS/PETS

Breman, IN
AKC Golden Retriever Puppies AKC Labrador Retriever Puppies First shots & wormed $500 574-773-4939

Kingsford Heights, IN.
Havanese puppies, and dogs available. Registered, Healthy, and Vet checked. *www.ccarlins.com* (219) 344-0992 Loving, quiet, hypoallergenic companions.

FARM

TRANSPORTATION

Sell Your In The Classifieds!

MOTORCYCLES

MOTORCYCLES WANTED

All makes/models Harley Davidson Honda, Yamaha Suzuki, Kawasaki Ducati, KTM Triumph "Dead or Alive" $$ Cash Paid $$ Reasonable Will pick up 630-660-0571

CARS FOR SALE

Gas City, IN
For Sale - 1998 Ford Ranger with 248,770 miles. New tires and toolbox. Fair Condition. May require new battery. $1000 OBO. Call 770-295-8091

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Superior organization, preparation and intuition will be your strengths. Be open to suggestions and concepts that will stretch your imagination and skills. If you follow your heart instead of others' actions, you will stand out. Put impulse on the shelf and choose discipline and stamina to achieve your goals.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Take the initiative, look at your options and make adjustments that will help you get ahead. Assisting others is admirable, but you have to help yourself first.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Greater involvement in a humanitarian cause will affect the way you set your priorities. A change of heart and plans is heading your way. Romance is encouraged.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You'll discover something that will encourage you to adjust your goal or professional plan. You'll have greater insight into what you want to do and how you can make a difference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Go about your business and leave nothing to chance or unfinished. Observe what others are doing, but don't get involved in gossip or risky investments. A personal gain should be your focus.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Address money, legal and health matters before they become difficult to handle. Try to come up with a plan that will help you alleviate stress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Relationships take work, understanding and compromise. Do your best to see all sides of whatever situation you are facing. Fair assessments, less judgment and more peace and love will improve your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Contracts, joint money matters and health issues will take time, effort and patience. Do your best to be sensitive to the needs of others. Positive change is worth your time and effort.

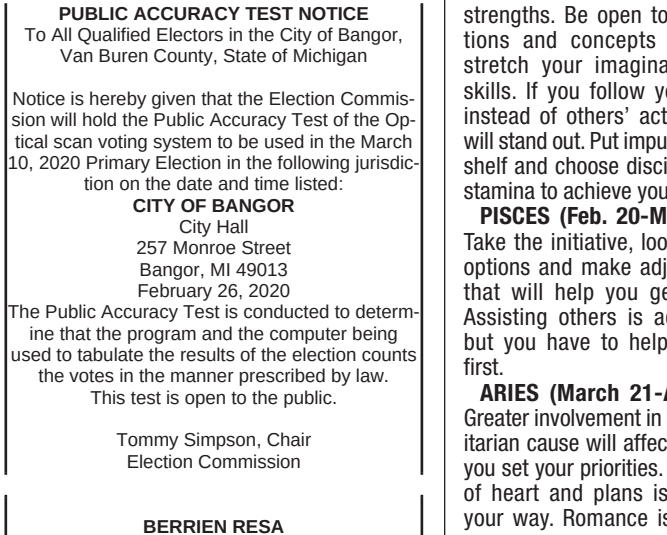
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Spend time with someone who brings out the best in you. Share your concerns and look for common ground. Walk away from situations that are one-sided or detrimental to your emotional well-being.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Charm will get you much further than emotional manipulation. Use your imagination to come up with a plan that will help you get what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Spend time with someone who makes you smile. Recognize what's right for you and what isn't, and eliminate the negative influences in your life. Romance will improve your experience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Money will come from an unexpected or unusual source. Someone from your past will help change your life. Look for a better way to use your skills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Do what's best for you, and don't let anyone pressure you into something that won't benefit you directly. Personal gain and growth should be your priorities.



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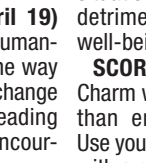

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